

Sharjah ruler names cousin as deputy

SHARJAH (AP) — The ruler of this southern Gulf emirate, Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasbi, issued a decree Saturday appointing his cousin, Sheikh Ahmad, as his deputy. Sheikh Ahmad is already chairman of the oil department, which is the main revenue-generating department of Sharjah. The decree did not refer to Sultan's elder brother, Sheikh Abdul Aziz, who three years ago attempted to topple him. After the intervention of the rulers of the rest of the neighbouring emirates, Sultan kept on his throne as crown prince but Abdul Aziz disappeared from public and political scene shortly afterward. This February, Sultan issued a decree appointing the one he had named as deputy. In 1987, he named his brother as crown prince. There had been speculation that Abdul Aziz might still be reinstated in view of the need for a second in command in the emirate, but Sultan has now closed the door by choosing his cousin as deputy. But diplomats noted that he did not directly name him as crown prince. Abdul-Aziz has been residing for quite a while in the Al 'Ain suburb of Abu Dhabi. In a palace said to have been offered to him as part of the mediation efforts between the two brothers by United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan.

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Libya reports failure of bids to mend U.S. ties

ABU DHABI (AP) — Libyan Foreign Minister Jadullah Azouz Al Talhi reported Saturday the failure of mediation bids by Egypt and Morocco to improve relations between Tripoli and the United States. "This mediation was fruitless despite the interest shown in it by several Arab states," Talhi told the United Arab Emirates state-run newspaper Al Itihad. "No development was achieved because of the American allegations regarding some issues related to terrorism," he said in reference to U.S. charges of terrorism practices by Libya. Talhi said both the United States and Israel were planning to attack his country, because of claims that it was producing chemical weapons.

Ex-KGB chief stripped of honours

MOSCOW (AP) — A former KGB counterintelligence chief who complained that the spy agency had too much power has been stripped of his military rank and decorations by President Mikhail Gorbachev, TASS said Saturday. Oleg Kalugin, who held the rank of major-general and was a top spy in the United States during the 1960s, said two weeks ago that he was hounded out of the KGB because of his reformist political views. He gave interviews to foreign and Soviet journalists and appeared on Soviet television, saying that the KGB had too much power and should be disbanded. "By decision of the president of the USSR," at the request of the KGB, Oleg Kalugin was deprived of all state decorations for actions compromising the honour and dignity of the state security organs," the state news agency said.

700,000 Kuwaiti residents flee heat

KUWAIT (R) — About 700,000 Kuwaitis and expatriates — 36 per cent of the population — are expected to leave Kuwait to escape the Gulf's scorching summer heat. Aviation officials say 506,779 passengers are booked out on scheduled flights and 86,000 on extra flights, the newspaper Al Siyassah reported Saturday. Summer temperatures in Kuwait reach 50 Centigrade (above 120 Fahrenheit).

Sudan rebels say they destroyed military convoy

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels in southern Sudan said Saturday they had destroyed a big military convoy sent to relieve troops at Yei, a town near the Zaire border that has been under siege since January. The clandestine radio of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), monitored in Nairobi, warned that similar attempts to send convoys from the town of Maridi or the regional capital Juba "will be crushed." The broadcast said SPLA forces ambushed the convoy on Tuesday on the road from Maridi to Yei, a town 160 kilometres to the southeast, killing at least 28 soldiers and destroying many vehicles.

Algerian women to open 'black book'

ALGIERS (R) — Fourteen Algerian women's associations, anxious about the consequences of the Islamic fundamentalist victory in June 12 local elections, have decided to open a "black book" recording violations of women's rights. The associations met in the town of Tizi Ouzou, east of Algiers, Friday to coordinate their activities, the official news agency APS said Saturday. The main concern was to work together with other democratic movements to counter "the retrograde tendency," it added. The women discussed the problems of access to the media, discrimination against them in the electoral system and education for girls, it said. They criticised a decision to close Ben Aknoun teacher training college in Algiers, which is the only institute in the country specifically to train teachers for girls.

Abdul Meguid: U.S. keen to resume dialogue with PLO

ROME (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said Saturday at the end of a visit to Italy he believed the United States was keen to resume its contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) suspended 10 days ago.

"I noted in Washington a willingness to continue the process of peace and to resume dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation on certain conditions," Abdul Meguid told reporters.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak dispatched his foreign minister to Washington less than a week after Bush suspended diplomatic contacts with the PLO June 20 because of its refusal to condemn a guerrilla raid on Israel.

"(The refusal to condemn violence) is a matter that the PLO must discuss and on which it must come to a decision," Abdul Meguid said after two days of talks with Italy's leaders.

"In the coming weeks, together with the PLO and other Arab States, we will prepare a plan of action to ensure dialogue is resumed."

He said his talks with Italian leaders had left him optimistic there would be strong pressure from the European Community for a resumption of the Middle East peace process.

"I am certain that in the coming weeks and months Italy will be active on the international scene, particularly in Europe and the Mediterranean," he said.

On Sunday Italy takes over the community's rotating presidency from Ireland.

Before he left, Abdul Meguid went to the Vatican to pay Pope John Paul a courtesy visit.

Italy recently proposed that the EC try to relaunch the Middle East peace process.

Abdul Meguid said his talks with such government leaders as Premier Giulio Andreotti and Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis were "encouraging."

Following his meeting Saturday with Abdul-Meguid, De Michelis said he was optimistic that the U.S.-PLO dialogue would resume.



Palestinian boys hurl stones at Israeli soldiers in Arab Jerusalem

Israeli soldiers raid villages, arrest dozens

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops backed by helicopters raided two villages in the occupied West Bank and detained dozens of Palestinians, the army and Israel Radio said Saturday.

"The radio said troops also confiscated 'cold weapons,' which usually means knives, and paramilitary uniforms, during the weekend operation."

It appeared to be the largest arrest sweeps in the West Bank since Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens of the right-wing Likud bloc took office earlier this month.

Reports said troops clamped a curfew on one of the target villages, Shweike, near the northern town of Tulkarm, at about 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

The soldiers shouted orders through megaphones for all village men to gather at a schoolyard, the reports added, quoting witnesses.

The military command said Shweike was one of two sites of arrests, the other being Beit Lakia village near the city of Ramallah, which is just north of Jerusalem.

In all dozens "suspected among

other things of conducting violence and causing disturbances," were detained, an army spokesman said, without elaborating.

According to reports, soldiers also clamped three-hour curfews on Tulkarm and Jenin Saturday, and also in the village of Burkin where officers went house-to-house to collect taxes.

Also Saturday, the army said a Palestinian detainee in the Ketziot desert prison camp in southern Israel was found slain and that a fellow Arab prisoner had confessed to the killing.

The victim was identified as Ibrahim Mahmoud Boutbou, 30, Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, and the suspected assailant as Adel Mahmoud Mohammad Najer, 29 of Bani Suheila in Gaza.

The motive for the slaying was not clear, an army official said. Since the start of the 30-month Palestinian uprising against Israel 227 Arabs have been slain by unknown assailants as alleged collaborators with Israel.

The last suspected collaborator killed was a 39-year-old man from Arab Jerusalem found strangled to death in his cell in the Shatta

prison in southern Israel Friday.

The army has jailed a soldier for 21 days for spray-painting offensive slogans in Arabic on a mosque in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, an army spokesman said Saturday.

Nablus residents said soldiers painted the slogans on a mosque door after finding a spray-paint cache used by activists in the uprising.

On Friday, uniformed Palestinian youths waving knives marched through Nablus, led by an activist with a gun, witnesses said. The open display of weapons was unusual even in Nablus, where the uprising is strong.

In Khan Yunis, in the Gaza Strip, a 12-year-old boy was killed by an electric shock while trying to drape a Palestinian flag over an electrical wire, reports said.

The march through the centre of Nablus was staged as a demonstration of strength by a faction of uprising leaders and involved about 18 youths dressed in black and khaki uniforms, witnesses said.

Also in Nablus, soldiers shot and wounded two protesters with plastic and rubber bullets.

Two million begin Haj

MECCA (Agencies) — Chanting "Labaikallahu Labaik," a traditional incantation affirming response to God's call, some two million Muslims mounted the plains of Mina Saturday to prepare for the climax of the annual pilgrimage or Haj to Islam's holiest shrines.

Shortly after dawn prayers in Mecca, site of the Kaaba to which Muslims all over the world turn in prayer five times a day, the white-dressed pilgrims began the ascent by car or foot to Mina, a hilly spot about five kilometres from Mecca.

Men wear seamless garments while the women don floor-length white gowns and headscarves.

The ascent continues throughout the day in what may be the world's largest traffic jam. But Saudi authorities, who have been funneling billions of dollars over the recent years to modernise and expand roads, overhead bridges and tunnels, reported a smooth operation.

Shades awnings were also constructed so that pedestrians will not be subjected to sunstroke, in heat that was recorded at 45 degrees Centigrade or 113 Fahrenheit.

Official statistics released on the occasion also recorded that the number of Muslims who came from outside the kingdom for the Haj this year was 827,236. These converge on the kingdom by

land, sea and air from all over the world weeks ahead of the Haj's culminating rituals.

They are joined by at least one million from inside the kingdom, an estimated half of which are either Saudis or expatriate residents also performing the Haj, and the other half who come for the mammoth servicing tasks.

According to the teachings of the Prophet Mohammad, the pilgrims will have to stay the night in Mina where they will pray four prayers, two in the daytime and two after nightfall.

Thousands of fire-resistant tents have been erected for pilgrims to use during their temporary stay in Mina which may continue up to three more days after the climax of Haj.

The ascent to Mina signifies the formal start of the pilgrimage rituals which will culminate Sunday when the pilgrims will stand at Arafat, a valley surrounded by mountains about nine kilometres further away.

The "guests of God" will leave Mina early Sunday for Arafat where they keep assembling until sunset. The stand at Arafat is considered the peak of rituals as anyone who misses it will not be considered to have performed Haj.

The day is spent in reading the Koran, supplicating and praying afternoon and twilight prayers together.

At sunset, the pilgrims leave

for Muzdalifa, another valley where they will stay for the night. They then return to Mina to throw pebbles at Satan and at dawn Monday start to slaughter sheep in commemoration of Prophet Abraham's offer of his son to God. This starts the three-day 'Eid Al Adha (feast of sacrifice).

Thousands of officials have been deployed for the Haj, boycotted by Iran for the third year in protest at a quota on pilgrims and ban on political demonstrations.

Strict security has been in force since 1987 when about 400 people, mainly Iranians, died in clashes with security forces who moved in to break up political demonstrations.

One pilgrim was killed and 16 wounded last year when bombs exploded near the Mecca shrines. Saudi Arabia beheaded 16 Kuwaitis, including 10 of Iranian origin, after finding them guilty of planting the bombs.

Iran wants to send 150,000 pilgrims rather than the 45,000 allowed under the quota introduced after 1987. Talks this month failed to resolve differences and Iran resumed its attack on Saudi leaders.

Every able-bodied Muslim who can afford to must perform the Haj at least once. Saudi Arabia has said it will foot the bill for more than 1,500 Soviet Muslims expected to attend.

Israel hopes for new formula from contacts with Washington

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli leaders appear to be counting on success in producing a new formula to advance their version of a settlement to the Palestinian problem after an exchange of letters between U.S. President George Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

While Shamir said Friday night that his letter to Bush in reply to a Washington peace plan could lead to a new approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Bush voiced concern over the deadlock in Middle East peace efforts. However, the U.S. president said he had no intention of abandoning the pursuit of a peace settlement.

"We're not going to sit here and do nothing," Bush told a Washington press conference. Washington will persist in its efforts to arrange an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue even if they get "totally stiff-armed," he said.

According to Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner, the prime minister "expressed his hope that his letter to President Bush and the forthcoming answers from Washington will open a new and promising chapter in the peace

process in the Middle East."

"He (Shamir) said that there is enough room to reach an agreement with the United States on a common approach for the continuation of the peace process," Pazner told reporters Friday night.

The statement followed Bush's vow to get unprecedented talks between Israel and Palestinians under way even if the United States had to "get back to the drawing board."

One Israeli official said Shamir's letter rejected a key element of the U.S. plan — the inclusion of deportees and Jerusalem residents on the Palestinian delegation — but Pazner and U.S. administration officials in Washington denied this.

The U.S. officials said the letter, sent Thursday, stated all Palestinians from the occupied territories other than those associated with "terrorism" were eligible for the proposed Palestinian delegation to the talks "on a name by name basis."

The letter is viewed in Israel as the right-wing government's first formal acceptance of some prop-

osals raised by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to hold Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo.

Washington's reactions to the letter have so far been lukewarm. Baker said Wednesday only that "it requires careful study."

According to a report in the Jerusalem Post, Bush's letter to Shamir, dated two weeks ago, said that the U.S. will publicly oppose Israel, even at the U.N., if the Jewish state does not halt expansion of existing settlements in the West Bank and Gaza.

According to the Post, the letter indicates that "Bush... wants more than assurances from Israel that it will not build new settlements."

"The letter does not say how the U.S. defines expanding settlements," the Post said.

Earlier this week, Republican David Obey (Democrat — Wisconsin), chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Operations Committee, which plays an important role in approving foreign aid, said he would favour reducing aid to Israel if it built new settlements or expanding existing ones.

Gorbachev's own changes force him to a corner

MOSCOW (AP) — The forces of change unleashed by President Mikhail Gorbachev are now pressing him to make a choice at the Communist Party's crucial 28th congress.

When Gorbachev opens the congress at the Kremlin Monday morning, he will face 4,700 party members reflecting the disarray at the dominant force in Soviet society.

The most powerful man in the Soviet Union can stand steadily on the crumbling middle ground between traditional Communists and radical reformers in an effort to keep the Communist Party unified.

Both sides are charging off in opposite directions and Gorbachev would risk losing them both.

Or he could step firmly in either direction, which would virtually guarantee that he would lose part of the Communist Party in a bid to save the rest of it.

"The possibilities for compromise, which during the whole time of perestroika have been Gorbachev's essential tactical weapon, are in fact exhausted," said Vladimir Lyenko of the

Democratic platform reform group.

"The centre's base is rapidly eroding, and in these circumstances Gorbachev has to make his final choice," he said.

Gorbachev has called on Soviet Communists to band together to avoid the first split in their ranks since Lenin. He said he believes the party will remain united, and that a split would be a "gift" to the opponents of his reform policy.

But Democratic Platform's 100 delegates are expected to walk out of the congress and probably announce the formation of a separate party.

The congress, which normally meets every five years, is theoretically the highest Communist party body. It has the right to elect the leadership, the policy-making Central Committee, and change party rules and platform.

The last congress was in early 1986. The 28th gathering was moved up almost a year to give Gorbachev a chance to overhaul the Central Committee and push more reforms.

The new date was set when the Soviet leader had the initiative. But in the months that followed,

critics from both sides have charged that Gorbachev's reforms have stalled and there appears to be little idea among his advisers of where to turn next.

The party this year set off in a new direction, surrendering its monopoly on power and endorsing the concept of private property. The new programme, to be brought up for a vote at the congress, makes scant mention of Marx or Lenin.

Lithuanian gas released

The Soviet government resumed oil shipments to Lithuania Saturday, a day after the Baltic republic's parliament agreed to freeze its declaration of independence.

It was the Kremlin's biggest step towards lifting the economic blockade it imposed to force Lithuania to back off its independence drive.

"We're getting oil," dispatcher Alma Belskita of Lithuania's Mazhiak refinery said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press in Moscow.

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Sudan leader promises federal system in a year

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military ruler promised Saturday to establish a federal system within a year in an apparent effort to solve the problem of implementing Sharia, or Islamic Law.

Lt.-Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir spoke at a mass rally marking the first anniversary of his seizure of power in a bloodless military coup.

Uganda President Yoweri Museveni, who arrived Friday on a three-day official visit, attended the rally, which was highlighted by military and civilian parades.

A national conference held last year to discuss ways of ending a 7-year-old civil war in the south recommended a federal system of government in which each of Sudan's nine provinces would be free to embrace Islamic Law. Bashir's ruling 15-officer junta endorsed the recommendation.

Bashir said the second year of his rule "will witness the application of the federal system in the country." He did not elaborate and made no specific mention of Islamic Law.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), led by turncoat army Col. John Garang, launched the southern rebellion against the Khartoum government in the spring of 1983. The rebels demanded greater autonomy and a better economic deal for the three southern provinces of Equatoria, Bahr Al Ghazal and Upper Nile.

The imposition of Islamic Law nationwide in September 1983 by then President Jaafar Numeiri added fuel to the rebellion. The southern provinces are inhabited mostly by Christians or animists of African origin. Muslims of Arab descent live in the north and dominate the Khartoum government.

The 14th-century-old Sharia Law includes a harsh penal code that decrees limb amputations for theft and death for adultery. Several dozen convicted thieves lost limbs under Numeiri.

Islamic Law has been shelved since Numeiri's overthrow by the military in 1985. But it remains on the books and the southern rebels persistently have demanded that it be scrapped as one of their conditions for a negotiated settlement.

The federal system is seen as a compromise enabling the southern provinces to drop Islamic Law if they wished. But this is strongly opposed by the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, an ardent proponent of Sharia.

Bashir disbanded the Brotherhood along with all other political parties as well as trade unions immediately after his coup. But the Brotherhood has strong popular following and there was evidence of this at Saturday's celebration.

Thousands of civilians marching past the grandstand, where Bashir sat with his Ugandan guest, chanted "Sharia, Sharia, O Bashir" and "Sharia, Sharia now." They carried banners with slogans making the same demand.

A year after taking power, Sudan's ruling junta is making some progress in resolving the country's economic woes but has failed to end the civil war and stands accused of abusing human rights.

The severe military discipline that Bashir has used to wipe out a rampant black market and control drug smuggling has been successful.

But the same harsh tactics have been used against critics of the new military government.

Hundreds of government opponents have been arrested and more than 60 tortured since the coup on June 30, 1989.

according to a recent report by London-based Amnesty International, a human rights monitoring group.

Bashir's government denies any wrongdoing.

Political parties and trade unions were banned immediately after the coup. Parliament was dissolved, and a promised new system for Sudanese to participate in decision-making has not materialised.

The government executed 28 active and retired army officers by firing squad after a summary court-martial found them guilty of attempting a coup against Bashir last April.

In addition to the 28 active and retired officers executed, 16 officers received prison terms of up to life and another 13 officers were cashiered for opposing Bashir. But the government gave few details of their alleged activities.

Dissenting politicians and intellectuals, who would not have hesitated to be quoted by name under the ousted civilian government of Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi, now refuse to have their names published for fear of government reprisals.

Severe shortages of many basic commodities continue to plague the people. Bashir's government has warned Sudan's 20 million inhabitants that there are more hardships to be borne before the situation gets better.

During June, the government announced price increases of up to 50 per cent for commodities like gasoline, tea and cigarettes. This was part of a three-year reform plan to end the budget deficit and adopt a market economy.

"One ounce of sugar daily for the individual is not sufficient even if it is regular. We wish the government would reconsider the quotas," one housewife said.

"There is no sweet without fire and no honey without the sting of the bee," said Col. Suliman Mohammad Suliman, a member

of the 15-man ruling Military Council.

"We know that hardships remain and that there are shortages in certain commodities, but we are convinced that a bright future lies ahead," he added.

After seeing a handful of convicted foreign currency smugglers and drug traffickers executed under new, harsh military laws, many Sudanese appear to have been cowed.

Strikes, once an almost daily occurrence, now seem unthinkable after a doctor leading a physicians strike was sentenced to death. He was pardoned following protests from the United States and neighbouring Egypt.

"You may not like the military but you cannot deny they have put some discipline and order in the shaky civil service," a Sudanese expatriate said.

Government employees, who once worked only a few hours in the morning, now dutifully sit at their desks until the official end of the working day at 2 p.m.

But the new government's main goal remains elusive. The 7-year-old civil war in the south continues despite Bashir's vow to end it quickly. The rebels want greater autonomy and a better economic conditions for the three southern provinces.

"We have come (to power) to achieve peace and we shall do so," said Brig. Pio Yukuwan, another member of the ruling junta. "Security and stability are the core of development and without peace we know there cannot be a comprehensive development in the country."

The civil war costs the government about a million dollars each day. Two rounds of peace talks between the government and the SPLA since last August have ended in deadlock. No date has been set for further talks.

The government seems to have had more success in managing its foreign relations than resolving some internal troubles.

Last March, Sudan and Libya signed an agreement calling for close cooperation in all fields for four years to be followed by unity.

Arafat sought to be heard at Dublin summit

MADRID (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat requested he be received by the 12 leaders of the European Community (EC) at their recent summit but was rebuffed over concerns the United States might see acceptance as a diplomatic slight, the newspaper El Pais reported Saturday.

In a story by its diplomatic correspondent, the paper said Arafat sought to be heard at the Dublin, Ireland, EC summit on June 25-26, a week after the United States suspended an 18-month-old dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The U.S. suspension was to remain in place until the PLO condemned a failed raid on an Israeli beach.

On June 22, Arafat aides transmitted the request by making contact with the Italian embassy in Tunis, where the PLO has its headquarters, the paper said.

The Palestinian aides led the Italians to understand that in return for acceptance of the meeting at the EC Dublin summit, Arafat would repeat his condemnation of the use of violence and publicly distance himself from PLO radical Abu Abbas.

Abu Abbas' followers carried out the May 30 attack on an Israeli beach near Tel Aviv broken up by Israeli forces who killed four of the guerrillas and captured 12 others.

The Arafat aides, according to the paper, also told the Italians the PLO leader would reaffirm his commitment to seek a negotiated solution to the conflict over the 1.7 million Palestinians under Israeli rule in West Bank and Gaza Strip, territories Israel has occupied since the 1967 Middle East war.

Italy transmitted the Arafat request to the Irish EC presidency, which let it be known it opposed an Arafat-EC meeting in consulting with the leaders of the other 11 EC nations prior to the summit, the paper said.

The 12 leaders agreed not to invite Arafat to the summit because they were concerned the United States would interpret acceptance of such a meeting as "a slap in the face" to U.S. policy toward the PLO and to avoid setting a precedent for future requests.

With the exception of East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere, who did attend the EC Dublin summit, no special visitors have taken part in previous EC summits, the paper said.

El Pais said Arafat had hoped to improve his standing at a moment when his strategy of seeking a negotiated settlement to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has suffered important setbacks, including the U.S. suspension of its dialogue with the PLO.

The paper also speculated Arafat had wanted to improve his delicate position within the PLO in the face of growing opposition by PLO hardline leftists and Islamic fundamentalists, who support armed struggle against Israel to liberate the occupied Arab territories.

He said the latest wave of settlers were ethnic Turks from the border regions of Bulgaria who had recently moved to Turkey.

The Greek Cypriot Karpas Refugee Committee protested Friday that 19 families of Turks from Bulgaria had recently been installed in Greek Cypriot villages in the eastern Karpas peninsula.

The committee also charged that the Turkish occupation troops "intensified their harassment and intimidation" of the last 519 remaining Greek Cypriots in the Karpas. This number, mainly elderly men and women, are also the only Greek Cypriots still left in



With bare hands Iranian rescue workers and volunteers try to clear rubble in the northwest Iranian town of Rudbar.

Iran appeals for tents, prefabricated housing

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Authorities conducting the rescue operation in the wake of the devastating earthquake last week issued an urgent appeal for tents Saturday.

The appeal came as government agencies concentrated on salvaging farmland and trying to bring life to normal in the quake-stricken areas.

Vahid Dastjerdi, head of the Red Crescent Society, said there was an urgent need for 50,000 tents in Zanjan and Gilan provinces where hundreds of thousands of people were left homeless.

The society has said the quake last Thursday, measured between 7.3 and 7.7 on the open-ended Richter Scale, killed at least 40,000 and injured 60,000.

Dastjerdi said with winter approaching in five months, 80,000 prefabricated houses would be needed for temporary shelter.

The provincial welfare organisation has taken 6,000 families, numbering 13,000 people, into its care because the breadwinner was killed in the earthquake, IRNA said.

The Agriculture Ministry said 90 per cent of the famous rice

fields in the worst hit areas, 200 kilometres northwest of Tehran, had been saved.

The ministry said the area once had a livestock population of one million and efforts were underway to collect survivors, bury carcasses, disinfect the area and compensate for losses.

The prayer leader of Rudbar, one of the worst hit areas, expressed thanks Friday for the foreign and Iranian aid pouring into the region and asked that it continue.

The Iranian national football team held an exhibition match in Tehran Friday and raised \$228,000 for the quake victims' fund, which now stands at over 21 million, IRNA reported.

The news agency said 19 trucks carrying relief supplies had arrived from Soviet Azerbaijan and that Iran Air was dispatching at Boeing 747 to transport over 100 tons of relief supplies gathered by the British Red Cross.

IRNA said members of a Czech relief team who set up a field hospital after the quake returned home Friday, as did the 205-member French relief team.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani thanked the world Friday for its "beautiful" help

after Iran's devastating earthquake and said critics of the aid were like "pestering flies."

In his first major speech since last week's quake, Rafsanjani told thousands of worshippers at Tehran University that "a wave of humanity" had spread across the world.

"It was very beautiful. I was very touched," he said.

He attacked hard-line Islamic fundamentalists who have accused countries like the United States, Britain, and Iraq of trying to buy friendship. He said the critics did nothing but "keep peering like flies."

Spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was consulted before help was accepted from abroad and ruled that "we have no right to reject others' aid, unless they want to take advantage of the situation," Rafsanjani said.

Rafsanjani's encouraging message for the West was not reflected by the crowd of several thousand, who chanted "death to America" and "death to Israel."

The chants, however, appeared to be pronounced more out of habit than out of ideological conviction, like the "down with USA" signs that adorn all inter-

national hotels in the Iranian capital.

Scores of planes carrying medicine, tents, blankets and food have poured into Tehran in the past week to help some 100,000 injured and 500,000 homeless.

A plane from Iraq brought 24 tonnes of relief supplies, a conciliatory gesture from President Saddam Hussein.

Rafsanjani singled out donors in Soviet Azerbaijan. "This is really sweet," he said. "These are people who from under the ruins of Marjan have brought their heads up and are Muslims once more."

But after conciliatory comments on foreign assistance, he launched a bitter attack on one of the main donors, Saudi Arabia, blaming it for the violence during the Muslim pilgrimage in Mecca three years ago, when 400 people were killed, mostly Iranians. Iran is boycotting the pilgrimage for the third year.

In the northwest quake zone, the road from Qazvin to Rasht was reopened after being blocked again by landslides in another shock Thursday night, the official news agency IRNA reported.

Algerian trade unions declare independence

ALGIERS (R) — A congress of the Algerian trade union movement proclaimed the union's independence from the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) party and voted all the old leadership out of office Friday.

Abdelhak Ibn Hammouda, a 44-year-old teacher and independent leader from Constantine in the east, replaced Taieb Belkaid, a member of the FLN Central Committee, as secretary general of the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA).

The congress, the UGTA's first since Algeria embarked on the Arab World's most daring democratic experiment, filled the other 10 seats on the national secretariat with reformist newcomers.

Throughout Algeria's independent history the UGTA has been an adjunct of the FLN, which monopolised all political power

until the democratic reforms began to take effect last year.

A new constitution adopted by referendum in February 1989 guaranteed freedom of expression and assembly and the right to form political parties.

By the end of last year, 12 opposition parties had been legalised ranging from Communists to Islamic fundamentalists.

The delegates welcomed the election of Ben Hammouda, the only outgoing leader who offered to vacate his post, with cries of "renewal, renewal."

Ibn Hammouda pledged at the closing session the future UGTA would be "a representative, democratic, united and strong organisation which can stand up to those who try to damage the interests and acquired rights of the workers."

Velayati leaves for Gulf peace talks

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran Saturday for United Nations-sponsored talks in Geneva about a Gulf war peace settlement.

Velayati and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz will meet

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar separately Tuesday to discuss implementing Security Council Resolution 598.

The Iranian News Agency IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, said Velayati was briefed by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani

before leaving Tehran at the head of a delegation.

A ceasefire mandated by the resolution ended eight years of fighting between Iran and Iraq in August 1988. But little progress has been made towards a lasting settlement.

Cyprus protests to U.N. over new Turkish settlers

NICOSIA (AP) — Government spokesman Akis Fantis said Saturday that Cyprus protested to the United Nations over the arrival of more mainland settlers in the Turkish-occupied part of the war-divided island.

Fantis said instructions have also been given to all the Cypriot diplomatic missions to protest the Turkish action to the governments of the countries where they are accredited.

Fantis said, "the arrival of more settlers is yet another indication of the continuing policy of Turkey to colonise the occupied area, something we constantly denounce internationally."

He said the latest wave of settlers were ethnic Turks from the border regions of Bulgaria who had recently moved to Turkey.

The Greek Cypriot Karpas Refugee Committee protested Friday that 19 families of Turks from Bulgaria had recently been installed in Greek Cypriot villages in the eastern Karpas peninsula.

The committee also charged that the Turkish occupation troops "intensified their harassment and intimidation" of the last 519 remaining Greek Cypriots in the Karpas. This number, mainly elderly men and women, are also the only Greek Cypriots still left in

the whole of the Turkish-occupied north.

The committee said the Turkish intention was to force the remnants of the formerly predominantly Greek Cypriot region to move to the southern, unoccupied part of the island.

Cyprus has been unofficially partitioned since a 1974 Turkish invasion seized 37 per cent of the east Mediterranean island's territory.

The arrival of more settlers from Turkey has been continuing for years despite protests and charges by the Cyprus government this is being done to change the demographic composition of the island's population.

A series of U.N. resolutions demand the withdrawal of the estimated 30,000 Turkish troops and 50,000 settlers from the occupied north, and the return there of 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees who fled or were forcibly evicted at the time of the invasion. Over 40,000 Turkish Cypriots were north.

The influx of mainland settlers has also been denounced by Turkish Cypriot opposition political parties. These complain that the settlers together with the Turkish troops and their families already exceed the indigenous Turkish Cypriot population of 120,000.

The settlers are granted citizenship and provided with homes and agricultural land belonging to the Greek Cypriot refugees.

These resulted in a clear victory and the reelection of Rauf Denkash, the president of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state established in the Turkish-occupied north, who favours the arrival of more settlers.

The breakaway state has only been recognised by Turkey. Its establishment in 1983 was branded legally invalid by the U.N. Security Council, which called for the abrogation of the move.

Meanwhile the mothers of five Greek Cypriot youths jailed in north Cyprus sent an angry letter to U.S. President George Bush Friday criticising him for accusing their sons of vandalism.

"Vandals are the Turkish hordes that invaded Cyprus illegally in 1974, burning, looting, raping and murdering thousands of Greek Cypriots and usurping their properties until today," said the open letter signed by the five mothers.

"Our children, whom you branded vandals, did nothing more than to protest the continuing occupation of half their country," said the letter, which was released to the press.

"We are certain, Mr. Presi-

dent, that you have been misled by lies and malicious information," the mothers added.

The mothers were angered by a reference in the bi-monthly presidential report to Congress on the situation in Cyprus, which was submitted earlier this week.

In this Bush said that during demonstrations in Nicosia by Greek Cypriot students earlier this year a handful managed to cross into the Turkish-controlled northern part of the island "and committed small acts of vandalism."

Cyprus has been unofficially partitioned since 1974 Turkish invasion that occupied 37 per cent of the east Mediterranean island's territory.

The demonstrations started after Turkish police arrested a Greek Cypriot student who had climbed the medieval walls in the Turkish sector of Nicosia to haul down a Turkish flag.

The demonstrations swelled after this student was tried and imprisoned for two months by a Turkish Cypriot court.

The other four were arrested and also tried and imprisoned by a Turkish Cypriot court for two to six months for attempting to enter the Turkish-controlled sector "illegally."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 News in Arabic
18:00 World Cup: West Germany vs. Czechoslovakia
19:58 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:40 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:55 Cartoons
18:20 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:20 Hey Dad
21:10 The Big Heart
21:45 News in English
22:00 World Cup: England vs. Cameroon

PRAYER TIMES

03:54 Fajr
05:29 Sunrise
12:39 Dhuhur
16:20 Asr
19:59 Maghrib
21:25 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Assumption Tel. 627440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711235
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 813977 and 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and windy will be northwesterly moderate to fresh, causing dust in the eastern and southern parts of the country. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with southerly moderate to fresh wind and calm sea.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./max. temp.	
Amman	17/25
Aqaba	23/36
Jerusalem	19/35
Jericho Valley	21/38

Today's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Al Assad	897919
Abd Wahab Awad	746070
Muhammad Azzam	819525
Muhammad Khali	896264
pharmacy	622520
pharmacy	778636
pharmacy	637055
pharmacy	638072
pharmacy	638372
pharmacy	636740
pharmacy	644945
pharmacy	637660

Dr. Muhammad Al Zoubi	(—)
pharmacy	(965238)

Dr. Muhammad Al Zoubi	(—)
pharmacy	(965238)

Dr. Muhammad Al Zoubi	(—)
pharmacy	(965238)

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	636140
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	75121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	860590
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information	890590
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	815615
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussain Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642811/6
Alkhil Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Madhat, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	843845
Al-Mushter Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir	771012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marza	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	669131

Hussain Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642811/6
Alkhil Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
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Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marza	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	669131
ZARQA:	074155
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ben Sina Hospital	(09)986732
IRBID:	1815
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Bo Al Nafes Hospital	(02)247100
AQA:BA:	1815
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30	Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
13:30	Doha (RJ)
14:20	Muscat, Sharjah, Doha (GF)
16:30	Dubai (EK)
18:00	Baghdad (add.) (IA)
19:25	Frankfurt (LH)
20:35	Beirut (ME)
22:45	Athens (OA)

ment at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30	Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
13:30	Doha (RJ)
14:20	Muscat, Sharjah, Doha (GF)
16:30	Dubai (EK)
18:00	Baghdad (add.) (IA)
19:25	Frankfurt (LH)
20:35	Beirut (ME)
22:45	Athens (OA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

RJ reports increased flights during summer

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Jordanian (RJ) operated 115 additional flights during June to cope with the increasing number of passengers coming to Jordan to spend the summer and the Eid holidays with their families in Jordan. RJ Executive Chairman Husein Abu Ghazaleh said Saturday in a statement to Petra. Abu Ghazaleh pointed out that the RJ operated such flights to serve the Jordanian expatriates. He said the company hardly makes any profits out of such one-way flights. He said that RJ, in cooperation with the Kuwaiti airline, had agreed to offer more than 30,000 additional seats during the summer season to carry Jordanian expatriates. So far both companies have operated one regular flight every day between Amman and Kuwait.

Abu Ghazaleh said delay in the departure of additional RJ flights is sometimes caused by certain restrictions placed by some Gulf airports on the arrival and departure of additional flights, in addition to the insistence of airports' managements to service additional flights when traffic is not heavy.

RJ has never witnessed heavy traffic similar to the one it has witnessed this season due to the

summer vacations and pilgrimage season, Abu Ghazaleh said.

Departure of regular flights to the Gulf area is scheduled during the night hours and their departure from the Gulf countries is scheduled for the early morning hours to meet the demands of Jordanian and Arab citizens wishing to pursue their flights aboard the RJ, he said.

Abu Ghazaleh said that the RJ operates four flights weekly to North America, including two direct flights to New York and two to Montreal, Canada. He also said that the RJ has operated one additional flight to New York on Thursday's and will continue to do so in July and August, when it is expected to carry some 2,000 additional passengers. He added that the RJ will operate four shipping flights to Europe every week, in a bid to carry 150 tonnes of fruit and vegetables to Europe. For this purpose, the RJ is currently studying the possibility of setting up cool rooms at the airport, capable of accommodating 70 tonnes of vegetables and fruit in case of any unforeseen delay in the departure schedules. He stressed that once the facility is provided, the RJ will commit itself to paying reimbursement for any damage caused by technical faults.

Police report rise in robberies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Friday reported a sharp rise in the number of thefts and robberies in the Kingdom in the first five months of 1990, registering 19.5 per cent increase over the same period of 1989.

A PSD statement said a total of 2,261 robberies and thefts occurred in the country between January and May 1990, as compared to 1,891 similar incidents in the same period of 1989.

Of the total number of thefts and robberies, 70 per cent involved minor thefts not exceeding the value of JD 1, reflecting the decline in the seriousness of such crimes.

The statement attributed the increase in the number of thefts

and robberies to the economic crisis in Jordan and to mounting unemployment.

According to the statement, a total of 262 cars were reported stolen in the first five months of 1990 as compared to 176 in the same period of 1989, but most of the cars were retrieved after being reported stolen.

The PSD statement cautioned the public to take extra measures to protect their property against theft. It said that the doors of homes and cars should be firmly closed and checked all the time, beggars should not be allowed into homes and large sums of money should be not be kept hidden at home but rather kept in bank to avoid loss.

Ministry outlines procedures to collect extra insurance fee

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has imposed an extra tax of 10 per cent on all insurance policies except the life insurance and said that the collected amounts will benefit civil defence services in the Kingdom.

A statement issued Saturday by

the Ministry of Finance said that the new tax, which takes effect as of June 16, 1990, will be collected by insurance companies and forwarded to the Ministry of Finance or its affiliated offices within a week after the end of each month.

Produce exports expected to reach JD 140 million...

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordanian crops exported to the Gulf countries and Europe in the first five months of 1990 earned the country JD 53 million and all indications point to the fact that national crop exports will reach JD 140 million during 1990, Minister of Agriculture Sulaiman Arabiyat said Saturday.

"Jordan's crop exports have grown fast from 118,000 tonnes in 1965 to 527,000 in 1989 largely due to the expansion of the Arab markets importing our products," the minister said at the opening of a one-day symposium called to discuss ways by which Jordan can promote exports of its crops to the Gulf states and Europe and improve the means of transportation of these products.

To help the country export, the minister said, more refrigerated trucks have been purchased, raising the number from 100 in 1976 to 1,600 over the past year, the minister said.

"These refrigerated trucks are also used to transport to Jordan imported frozen meat and poultry and other perishable products," the minister added.

According to Arabiyat, Jordan's crop exports to Europe increased noticeably over the past three years reaching 4,400 tonnes in the past agricultural

season, transported mostly by air.

Dr. Arabiyat referred to the obstacles in air transport of agricultural products, due mainly to the lack of refrigerated facilities at the airports and to the lack of a clear programme by the private sector to transport crops by air to the European markets.

The minister announced that the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) is now closely cooperating with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to carry out an agricultural marketing development project designed to boost exports.

The project, he said, entails gathering information about the local produce and cooperation with the private sector.

The minister urged all concerned sectors and transport organisations to cooperate in promoting national crop exports to Europe and the Gulf.

According to a working paper submitted to the symposium, fruit and vegetable exports are likely to increase dramatically during the coming years as a result of the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar which makes the Jordanian products more competitive in both the traditional Gulf markets and Europe. A recent study by a fruit and vegetable transportation specialist has uncovered several likely transportation im-

provements which must be introduced in order for Jordan to reduce transport costs, improve transportation services and improve product quality.

The symposium, which was organised by AMO in cooperation with concerned parties was attended by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Chief Executive Officer Husein Abu Ghazaleh who said that if the national carrier is to transport crops to Europe, the exporters should create a unified office or association to supply RJ with information about the volume of the products to be shipped and a regular timetable for shipments.

Abu Ghazaleh also said that exporters and farmers should help shoulder the cost of constructing refrigerated facilities and storage at the Queen Alia International Airport, a project which will be implemented soon.

"It is easier for RJ to deal directly with a group or an organisation of farmers and exporters rather than having to do business with individual exporters," Abu Ghazaleh said. He said that RJ, which has been transporting crops by air to European destinations at the rate of 320 files per kilogramme, will have to raise its charge to 350 files per kilogramme, partly to cover the increasing cost of operations and partly to help cover the cost of building the refrigerated facilities at the airport.

... but transportation, quality problems need to be resolved

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At a time when Jordanian-made products are gaining ground in foreign markets and when local produce is becoming increasingly competitive, the Agricultural Marketing Development Project (AMDP) organised a symposium Saturday, covering the many aspects in transportation services and quality.

The symposium was attended by specialists from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Jordanian exporters, freighters and farmers, as well as specialists from the ministries of transport and agriculture. The main target of the symposium was to bring farmers, exporters and transportation companies together so that information on transportation alternatives and technical requirements for fresh local produce would be provided.

One of the discussions at the symposium tackled certain areas which should be improved (in terms of transportation) in order for Jordan to enhance its product quality and reduce transport costs. These include charter air freight service, truck transportation and ocean freight refrigerated container service to certain Gulf and European markets.

William Hargreaves, a transportation consultant, said he favoured shipping by sea from Jordan "because it is the cheapest form of transport and also because the port of Aqaba is adequate."

Transport by refrigerated trucks is seen as beneficial to Jordanian export of agricultural products. When refrigerated trucks were introduced into Jordan, the exports

of commodities rose but "we still have to find other suitable and more effective alternatives over land and sea in order to give Jordan its maximum potential," said Minister of Agriculture Sulaiman Arabiyat. Now, the total number of refrigerated trucks is around 1,600 as opposed to 1987 when Jordan had only 400 and 1976 when the trucks were as few as 100.

The symposium touched on issues related to which means of transportation are most effective in Jordan and what should be done to improve means of exports.

Specialists at the symposium stressed that Jordan's problems in transportation by vehicles stemmed from technical reasons. One example is that there are no suspended air cushions on the chassis. The absence of air cushions exposes the goods carried to vibration and damage.

Another aspect Jordan needs to look out for in order to reduce loss of quality, according to Dr. Yilmaz Ilker, a post-harvest specialist in the Agriculture Marketing Organisation (AMO), is that "Jordan should increase its production and quality in fruits and vegetables during the off-season periods, from January to April, in order to market them to Europe." At the moment Jordan maintains an irregular form of shipment to European markets, halting their exports during the winter seasons.

Another related aspect where Jordan is facing problems is the lack of coordination and planning, say specialists in the field. "Jordan has to handle perishable commodities properly in order to upgrade the quality. The products should be refrigerated and cooled immediately for long distance transportation

of goods and they should be sterilized," Ilker said.

Although Jordan seems to be increasing its exports of fruits and vegetables to Europe and international and local signs reveal that Jordan has potential in this field, Dr. Kelly Harrison, director of AMO, asserts that Jordan could be exporting much more in terms of value if the exporters and freighters implement different modes of transportation. "Jordan could increase their value from \$55 million this last year up to one billion dollars."

Between 1989-1990 Jordan's exports to Europe have been very good, according to Arabiyat. During this period of time Jordan exported 4,400 tonnes of fruits and vegetables to Europe by air freight.

Harrison believes that there is high potential in utilizing trucks instead of air freight to Europe. One of the reasons is that trucks are more cost-effective than airfreight (which is the most expensive method of transportation). "Using trucks is feasible because Jordan and Europe are relatively near to each other; Jordan would need exercise and ensure that the commodities remain fresh when they reach the destinations."

The minister added that competition in marketing in traditional and international markets will only increase if two issues are followed.

The first would be to foresee the chances in the European markets and to plan and market ahead of time. The second is to find suitable modes of transportation and cost-effective ways to protect the exported commodities, make sure they reach destination on time and ensure that commodities remain fresh.



The highlight of the costume parade held at green, black and white thobe (Photo Youssef Al Philadelphia Hotel last Wednesday was a red, Allan).

Palestinian week starts with costumes, folklore

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Men in ties and women clad in traditional Arab dresses, adorned with old silver jewelry slowly started filing the large hall of the Philadelphia Hotel in Jabel Amman last Wednesday evening as Arabic music provided the atmosphere for the occasion at hand: the Palestinian folklore week.

The songs were not the usual love songs heard in restaurants and public places all over the Middle East. They were songs of solidarity, songs of nostalgia, as one spectator put it: "Of longing for lands long lost by the Arabs in wars gone by."

The songs of the intifada, the two-and-a-half-year-old Palestinian uprising, were sung by the two-year-old Mukhayyan (refugee camp) musical group from Mahatta. As five young men and two young women sang about the pains of occupation, the beauty of the occupied lands, the longing of those in exile to return and the hope of victory against the "intruder," about 450 people sat and listened.

"Did you notice?" asked one observer attending the evening, "all these people from west Amman have never seen this group sing."

"Yes, that's probably true," said one of the organisers. The women's chapter of the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada had sold 500 tickets at JD 25 apiece for the fundraising evening.

"Obviously those who can afford to pay JD 25 have the money to do so," said one of the organisers. "The group is not well known in west Amman and that's why we brought them here to sing; we want people to become more familiar with what is happening in town."

said one of the organisers. "Different people in Jordan are doing different things to show their solidarity with the

intifada; some write poems or songs while others send goods or money; almost everyone is contributing in one way or another," she added.

Samia Zaru's works decorated the main hall giving it the touch of the old and new in Arab art.

The evening began with an introduction by the committee's President, Dr. Mamdouh Abbadi, who explained how the funds raised by the committee were utilised.

The committee gives JD 200 for the family of each wounded Palestinian and JD 1,000 for the family of each martyr, Abbadi told the audience, many of whom now regularly attend the committee's fund raising activities.

Half an hour of music and song performed by the Mukhayyan group, whose songs were apparently not new to some in the audience who sang along, started off the evening.

Then a one-and-a-half-hour show of old and modern dresses of Palestine and Jordan showed both the richness of the Arab women's folklore wardrobe and the effort and time that has been put into maintaining the ancient craft of traditional dress-making. As the presenter made a documented commentary on each dress, shown by seemingly tireless models, people clapped in admiration and enthusiasm for the beauty of the dress or, as in the case of the Nabulus attire, for their hometowns.

In seemingly endless variations of shapes, colours and fabrics, the organiser of the fashion show Hannan Goshah showed the unlimited possibilities of mastering and modernising the traditional dress-making craft.

Seated across the table from Mamdouh Abbadi, the Palestine Ambassador Tayyeb Abdul Rahim clapped enthusiastically with the showing of

each dress. Abdul Rahim was among the few Palestinian or Jordanian public figures in attendance.

In what committee organisers described as "a most generous and welcome gesture," the Philadelphia Hotel contributed to the fundraising evening by offering the hall, food and their services free.

"Their help for the last two weeks in organising this event, as well as their contribution this evening, has been exemplary," said one of the organisers.

The presentation of the intifada dress which was a white thobe decorated in red, white, black and green, highlighted the evening which ended at midnight.

A raffle for the intifada dress brought the amount raised that evening to JD 17,000.

"We collected JD 31,000 during the showing of 'Nasheed Al Hajjar' (film), in March, and every month we have activities in which we raise more funds," explained one of the organisers.

"We had Gaza day and Jaffa day and we are always busy organising for the next charity breakfast, lunch or dinner. The theme and purpose is not to eat of course; it's to raise funds and of course most important of all stir the consciousness of our people. This is one of the great benefits of our new democracy," said one of the organisers.

According to Dr. Abbadi, this year may be the most successful fundraising year to date. "In 1988 JD 1.5 million was raised and JD 1.1 million was raised in 1989 and so far we have raised close to JD 1 million in 1990," Abbadi told the Jordan Times.

Committee members promised that more activities were on the agenda for the months to come. "We don't want to say anything now, it will be a nice surprise," promised one of the organisers.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Sharana, Mohammad Assad and Hani Khazem at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.

★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-printed fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

★ Exhibition entitled "Saints: the French city of art" at the French Cultural Centre.

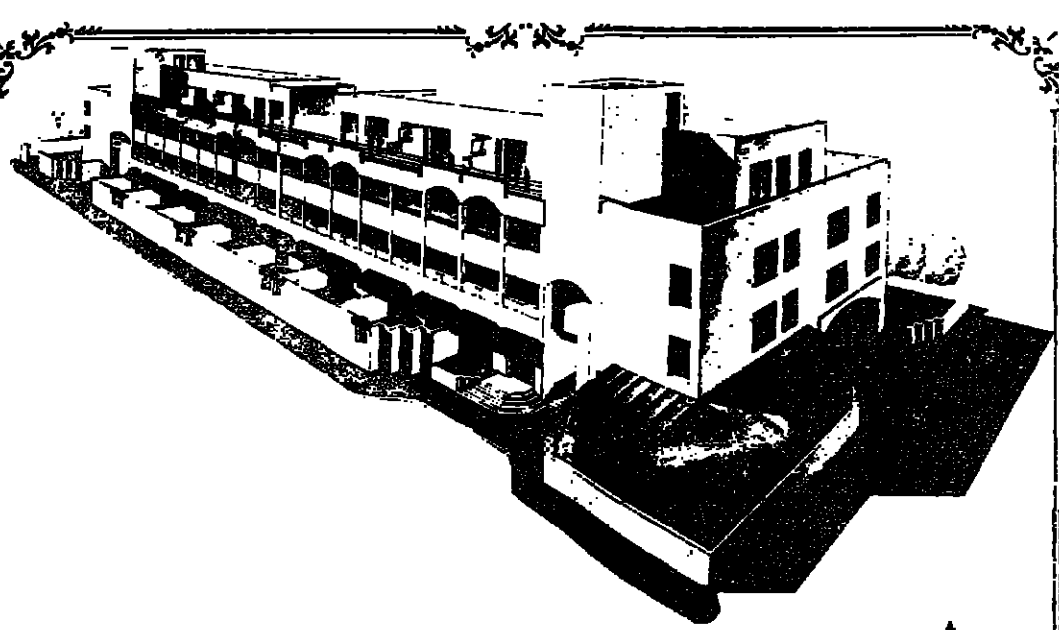
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 Jordan Times advertising department.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Unemployment high on country's agenda

By Dr. Fahed Fakh

RESPONDING to the popular pulse, the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday began a general discussion on unemployment. The discussions started with a statement by the Minister of Labour, Qasem Obeidat who summed up the government's perception of the problem and described the policies and measures taken by the cabinet to tackle unemployment and alleviate its negative consequences. Discussions will continue after the holidays.

Naturally the minister pointed out, and dwelled on, the external factors that contributed to the problem,

because it is more convenient to high-light those factors, that are beyond the authority of the government, while understating the domestic factors that lend themselves to government intervention and policies.

Obeidat suggested that unemployment has reached 15.6 per cent of the total labour force, or some 100,000 unemployed, from various categories of workers.

The minister also elaborated on the measures taken by the government to fight unemployment and create new jobs. The measures put forward by the minister made sense, but ques-

tions remain: Were these measures really implemented, and if so, did they help? If the minister knew what should be done, then why nothing or very little was being done?

The minister blamed the influx of too many non-Jordanians into the labour market. I agree, but I recall the ministry's campaign in this respect, which was launched several months ago, did not persist for more than one week and was aborted for unknown reasons. Apparently the task of curbing foreign labour is beyond the means of the Ministry of Labour and should be treated

as a national security matter if results are to be achieved.

So far the speeches presented by the deputies, including that of the Islamic Bloc, did not offer any alternative. The statement of the minister may be more advanced and far reaching than those of the angry deputies who wanted the Government to find a solution but fail to offer one themselves. We will have to wait and see what the others have to say after the holidays, especially the awaited address of the newly formed National Bloc with the address on unemployment

being its first political act and pronouncement as a bloc, on the floor of Parliament.

One thing should not be overlooked by all concerned parties: Unemployment cannot be tackled as an isolated problem. It has to be dealt within the framework of the economic correction programme.

It takes new investments to create new jobs. New investments may come about through certainty, stability, and restoration of confidence in order to resume growth. That obviously takes time, but it is important to start. On the other hand, the

labour force is growing at 2 per cent a year. Assuming an improvement of productivity of 1 per cent a year, the economy has to grow at 7 per cent a year to cater for the new demand in the labour market. It has to grow even faster if we want to create jobs for the current numbers of unemployed. A growth rate of this magnitude is obviously out of reach in the current circumstances. The country has to live with unemployment for quite some time unless we can find external markets to take the surplus, or adopt a population policy to control growth to an acceptable rate.

Mr. President, please stop beating around the bush

FUNNY the way some American minds work; and President George Bush appears to take the cake this time around with his pledge that he would bring about Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the basis of a letter he has received from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Of course, one cannot rule out the possibility that Bush is one of those magic wizards who can produce water from an empty bottle (even at that it is a stage illusion). But, as things stand now, the letter of Shamir to Bush resembles a tiny little empty vial and the U.S. president is promising an ocean out of it. For there is nothing in the way of meeting Palestinian aspirations in what the Israeli prime minister has in mind. No independent Palestinian state, no negotiations with the PLO, no peace conference, no withdrawal from the occupied territories, no compromise over Israel's claim to "Judea and Samaria," increased settlements and an iron-fist policy to crush the intifada. To cap everything, Bush has already slammed the door on the U.S.-PLO dialogue, which could have served as some form of conduit to keep the peace process alive.

For all practical purposes, it is evident that neither the U.S. administration nor the hardline government of Shamir have any intention of introducing a feasible formula to advance efforts for just, comprehensive and equitable peace in the Middle East. If anything, the purpose of the so-called exchange of letters is only to pull an American-tailored veil over further stone-walling by Israel.

Come down to earth, Mr. Bush. No matter how eloquently you put it, the fact remains that the U.S. administration cannot possibly hope to build anything from the basic fibres of what Israel is willing to offer in return for peace with the Arabs. Yes, you can indeed go back to the drawing board and start all over again, but please ensure that the drawing board is not Israeli-supplied and accept that no matter what happens you have no choice but to accept to recognise and guarantee the legitimate political rights of the Palestinians, including their right to independent statehood, if you are serious about finding peace in the Middle East.

Until then, Mr. President, please stop beating around the bush.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i on Saturday, discussed a decision by the U.S. Senate Foreign Affairs Committee which decided to impose economic sanctions against Iraq. The decision was based on false accusations that Iraq had violated human rights by using chemical weapons and has been threatening Israel with such weapons, the paper said. The paper noted that the decision came in the wake of a long U.S.-Israeli hostile campaign against the Arabs in general and Iraq in particular, and is clearly designed to employ economic measures in addition to political leverage to impose hegemony on the Arabs. The Arab Nation should be on its guard now since this move could pave the way for a military aggression on Iraq, in which the United States could be the key player, warned the paper. It said that the American Senate had earlier taken a decision in support of Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem, and now move came as a complementary act to display all enmity and hostility towards the Arab countries. The series of American actions, the paper noted, should prompt the Arab countries to embark, on a serious and collective action, rising to the level of the new challenge and to Washington's open hostility to the Arab World.

Al Dustour daily commented on a statement by the Soviet Foreign Ministry that war is imminent in the Middle East region in view of Israel's continued expansionist policies. The warning is tantamount to an accusation by Moscow levelled at Washington as being responsible for the dangerous and explosive situation in the region because of its continued support for Israel's inhuman practices and the U.S.' failure as a superpower to help bring about a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper continued. It said that the Soviet warning reflects Moscow's concern over the situation in the Middle East and its realisation of the urgent need to put an end to Israel's atrocities and an end also to Washington's unlimited support which is translated into bombs and bullets raining on Palestinian women and children. The Soviet Foreign Ministry's statement is a reminder for the Arabs that the United States total bias towards Israel and world Zionism is responsible for the explosive situation, regardless of President Bush's statement that his country was determined to pursue efforts to achieve peace, the paper added. The paper supported Moscow's views with regard to the present situation, and said that the Arabs would no doubt pool all their resources for defending their rights.

Sawt Al Shaab daily criticised the United States for continuing its aid to Israel which is bent on aggression and giving empty promises to the Arab World. The United States does not wish to exercise any pressure on the Jewish state to make it change its position, and continues to issue false statements to deceive the Arab Nation. For this reason, it is in the Arab Nation's interest to internationalise the Middle East problem and to stop counting on empty and deceitful American promises, the paper said. Leaving the Arab-Israeli conflict under Washington's mercy is not going to help the Arabs regain their rights or lands, added the paper. In the absence of any international force to bring about a settlement, the paper concluded, the Arabs have no alternative but to rely totally upon themselves and their intrinsic strength.

By Maria Holt

IT is a well established fact that newspapers tend to reflect the biases of their readers. This raises several questions. First, do people buy particular newspapers because they approve of the general tone of that paper or do the papers respond to what they perceive to be the inclinations of their readership? Second, how much genuine difference can be discerned between the so-called "quality" newspapers in Britain? Finally, to what extent do newspapers influence the larger climate of opinion on a particular issue? It is of interest to examine these questions in the light of the coverage given by the British press to the current phase of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict because the attitudes expressed are likely to affect, in the longer term, the British government's approach to the peace process.

Language, the way reports are worded, is of the utmost importance in shaping a reader's perception of events. In order to investigate this proposition more fully, articles about Israel and the Palestinians in five British national daily newspapers (The Daily Telegraph, The Times, The Financial Times, The Guardian and The Independent) covering a period between the beginning of January and the middle of March this year were scrutinised.

This period witnessed little movement towards the realisation of the proposed talks between the Israeli government and representative of the Palestinians over the plan to hold elections in the occupied territories. The Israeli government seemed hopelessly divided on the issue and, by the end of the period under review, had fallen apart completely. At the same time, the Palestinian intifada has continued unabated. Palestinians are still being killed and injured in large numbers. An Israeli tourist bus in Egypt was attacked. The issue of Soviet Jewish immigration into Israel has also affected the peace process.

Two things should be kept in mind. First, British public opinion had traditionally tended to support the Israeli position. Second, the current stalemate can be almost entirely attributed to Israeli intransigence and, in particular, the stubborn position adopted by Prime Minister Shamir.

Let us see, therefore, how the British press has dealt with these issues. One should note the sheer amount of space that has been devoted to coverage of events leading up to the crisis in the Israeli government, in contrast to an occasional footnote or postscript about the distressing and frequently bloody occurrences in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Apportioning blame

An article in The Times of Jan. 2, for example, considers the prospects for peace in the Middle East in 1990. While the U.S. peace plan and the Israeli democratic process are discussed at some length, the intifada is described, erroneously, as having "created a Palestinian identity." The U.S. secretary of state, asserts The Times, in order "to keep the initiative alive," must "prevent the PLO from breaking off the dialogue with the U.S."

Since substantial inequalities clearly exist between the two sides, it seems unfair and unrealistic to apportion blame equally between them as, for instance, in the statement that "progress towards the dialogue is stalled by the incompatible positions of the two sides" (Financial Times, Jan. 3). One should remember that the PLO has signalled its willingness to enter into

talks with Israel while the Israeli government persists in placing obstacles in the way of such talks.

Exasperated by lack of progress, Yasir Arafat announced in January that he would resign as chairman of the PLO if peace efforts failed. According to the Daily Telegraph of Jan. 19, "the threat to recall the Palestine National Council implies the PLO might reverse its declared recognition of Israel's right to exist and encourage its guerrillas to expand their operations beyond military targets in Israel and the occupied territories; it is far from clear how the Daily Telegraph arrives at such an implication."

On the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration, two strands of thinking have emerged in the British press. One is an appreciation of Israel's "struggle to cope with the swelling volume of Jewish immigration" (Guardian, Jan. 25), while the second worries that "a mounting wave of immigration by Soviet Jews to Israel will upset the political balance in the area to the detriment of the Arab side" (Financial Times, Jan. 25). This, of course, would undermine the so-called "peace process" (described by The Independent of Jan. 25 as "an interesting American phrase that deserves further examination").

A headline such as "PLO is still attacking civilians, says Israel" (Daily Telegraph, Feb. 1) is bound to provoke, on one level, an emotive response, regardless of the substance of the article. It is unfortunate that certain images, for instance Israel as a democracy in an area of dictatorship and the PLO as a terrorist organisation dedicated to the destruction of Israel, are still firmly in place. Although these exist mainly on the level of stereotype, they are nonetheless very pervasive.

More coverage for Israel

When, therefore, an attack was launched against an Israeli tourist bus in Egypt in early February, the press seemed only too eager to seize on shrill reactions such as Ariel Sharon's assertion that "there is no change in the attitude of the PLO terror organisations" (Daily Telegraph, Feb. 5), and Yitzhak Shamir's comment that the attack proves "hatred for Israel still exists and is running wild in the area" (Guardian, Feb. 5). Such sentiments serve to confirm the suspicions of many, both inside and outside Israel, that peace is impossible. Yet, as The Independent of Feb. 6 commented, "The sad truth is that over the past few months the pressure on Israel's government to accelerate the peace process has diminished rather than increased."

The fact remains that the killing of innocent Israeli civilians received considerably more coverage than the killing of Palestinian civilians is normally able to attract. It was an "outrage" rather than just another unfortunate death under the rigours of occupation. The Daily Telegraph of Feb. 13, for instance, in an article devoted to the resignation of Ariel Sharon, mentions in a footnote at the end of the report that "Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian boy in the Gaza Strip yesterday, the sixth Arab they have killed in the occupied territories in a week."

According to the Financial Times of Feb. 8, one of the objectives of "the Palestinian extremist responsible for the attack" was to undermine the "peace process". Might the same not be said about the murder of Palestinians in the occupied territories by the Israeli army?

The Soviet Jews

A protest by Palestinians against the very real threat that Soviet Jews might be settled in the occupied territories was reported in The Independent of Feb. 20 almost entirely from the Israeli point of view. Although comments from Israeli officials, soldiers and media are quoted, only one paragraph is given over to a Palestinian explanation of the action. One is left with the impression that the danger to Jews in the Soviet Union is of infinitely greater urgency than the threat to Palestinian lives or the rapidly disintegrating peace process. The Independent of Feb. 26 reminds us that, in the case of Soviet Jews, "it is human beings we are talking about, individual men, women and children with fears and hopes for the future, not particles of economic and political power. It is worth bearing in mind that the Palestinians, too, are human beings with similar hopes and fears for their future. The article goes on to dismiss the "fury of many Arab observers" as "futile and short-sighted." The Palestinians, in effect, are being urged to be less preoccupied with their own problems and more magnanimous towards other sections of suffering humanity.

By the beginning of March, it was obvious that the peace plan was going nowhere and that the U.S. government was growing increasingly exasperated with Israeli intransigence. As The Guardian of March 7 reported, "U.S. officials have made clear that Israeli unwillingness to accept the compromise formula would lead to Israel being blamed for the breakdown of the peace process."

At last a greater readiness to criticise what can only be termed

Israeli intransigence seemed to be emerging. The Financial Times of March 14 commented "since the PLO accepted the principle of peace with Israel, Israel's objection to negotiating with it no longer finds any significant echo elsewhere in the world."

The paper added, however, "that Israel find it difficult to embark on negotiations with a body formerly dedicated to the extinction of their state is understandable." The article neglects to mention that the government of Israel, supported by a large section of its population and possessing considerably more power than the PLO, is equally determined not to allow the Palestinians to even establish a state of their own. The article concludes by regretting the "deleterious effect on Israeli society" that the everlasting war with the Palestinians is having. For Palestinian society, too, it might have added, the effects are far from positive.

The dangers to Israel

In the middle of March, Israel's "national unity government" finally collapsed, prompting much comment in the British press. As usual the main concern was over the possible dangers to Israel. The collapse, as The Times of March 14 noted, "has exposed with brutal clarity Israeli schizophrenia over the future of their Jewish state and control of the Arab territories captured in 1967."

Israelis, said The Times, "deserve more understanding than they are often accorded by the international community." According to the same Times editorial, on the question of East Jerusalem, "it is difficult not to sympathise with the Israeli position. While it is regarded by the Arabs as an 'occupied territory,'

it was formally annexed by Israel after the 1967 war, and it is hard to conceive of Israel surrendering it along with the West Bank. Its future must surely be as the Israeli capital."

According to The Independent of the same day: "For Israel's friends these are depressing times. The spectacle of the kith and kin of the victims of the Holocaust acting as an occupying power and a relatively brutal one at that, is saddening." However, "the PLO leadership has taken considerable risks in formally rejecting terrorism. The intifada in the occupied territories may have been contained; but the violence which it has spawned can only brutalise all those involved."

The unavoidable conclusion to be drawn from this is that Israel should make peace not to satisfy the legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinians but, rather, to preserve its own integrity and purity of purpose. The ideal of the Israeli state retains a certain nobility for many in the West, whereas the Palestinian struggle is often relegated, consciously or unconsciously, to the inarticulate chaos of Third World agitation. The British press, on the whole, contributes to the reinforcing of this tendency. It is here, perhaps, that we come to the heart of the matter. It seems fair to say that a difference of perception, in civilisational terms, exists between the two sides. The Israelis, in short, are Westerners and rational while the Palestinians are not.

A clear bias

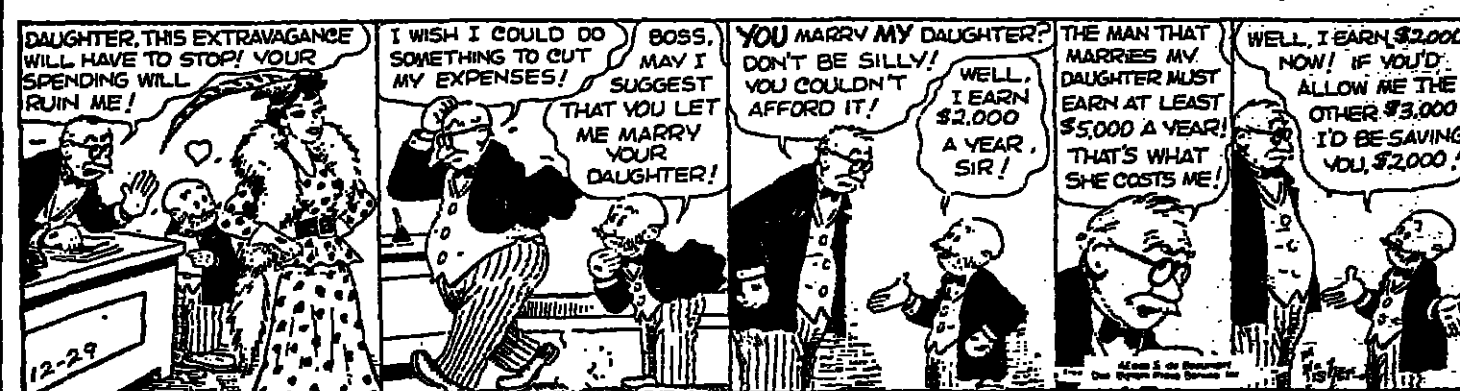
Although a two and a half month review of five newspapers cannot hope to do full justice to the range of opinions expressed and has had to be, of necessity,

selective, a number of tentative assertions are certainly possible. To begin with, a very clear bias in favour of Israel is notable. Although most journalists would no doubt agree that the Israeli government has displayed, over the past few months, a significant reluctance to proceed to the negotiating table, Israel continues to be given the benefit of the doubt, its tactical manoeuvres and labyrinthine political processes endlessly analysed.

Second, Israeli affairs are given a disproportionate amount of coverage compared to those of the Palestinians. The devaluation of the shekel at the beginning of March, for instance, received more space than the shooting of unarmed Palestinian civilians by the Israeli army. The reporting of such incidents, further, tends to be couched in a language which suggests an equality between the two sides which, in reality, is absent. When heavily armed soldiers open fire on peaceful demonstrators it is not a "clash" but, rather, an attack against a civilian population attempting to express understandable grievances.

Lastly, the PLO, which is universally regarded as the authoritative voice of the Palestinian people, continues to be treated, in general, with suspicion. Its old "terrorist" image is not allowed to disappear, even though the organisation has not engaged in any activities remotely resembling terrorism for a considerable period. On the contrary, it has unequivocally declared its commitment to a peaceful solution and to negotiations with Israel. It is the Israeli government and not the PLO which keeps placing obstacles in the path of peace. But the British press fails to fully reflect this Middle East International.

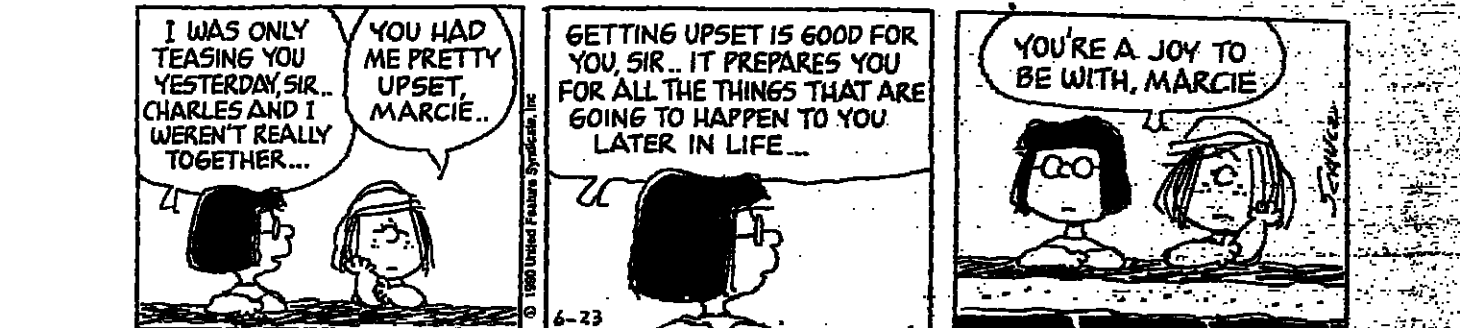
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



إلى من لا يقرأ

July 1, 1990

Features

Poland: overcome by good intentions

By Drusilla Menaker
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Poland is awash in would-be benefactors. Executives, ambassadors, governors, heads of state, celebrities — the parade of visitors trailing their good intentions through the country's wrecked economy is endless.

The goodwill visits have become tiring, but Poland must try to cash in on the bonanza before the angels from the West turn to another fashionable cause.

For every plenitude of visitors, ranking government members must clear schedules and prepare briefings. They fear closing off any opportunity.

But now, although very politely, some Poles are beginning to wonder: will much of anything come of all the meetings, briefings and conferences?

"The Poles are suffering from visitor fatigue," said Jerzy Gabczyk, a London businessman working as a top adviser to the industry ministry through the British know-how aid fund.

"They come and have meetings with the ministers. They think it is fantastic — to have a meeting with a minister. Then they shake hands and nothing ever happens."

Some missions have been fruitful: a German builder has started a new airport terminal and a French firm provided computer services for the May municipal elections. The well-publicised homecoming of heiress Barbara Flasecka Johnson brought a monumental art exhibit, but talks on investing in the Gdansk shipyard broke off.

The visits can mark the beginning of cooperation, said Jerzy Baczynski, writing in the weekly *Polityka*.

"Yet on many occasions... their only outcome are suggestions on further aid to Poland," subject to further study, he said.

The foreign delegations are political, parliamentary, industrial, international — and countless.

A small sampling from recent weeks: Portuguese business leaders, Japanese investors, the U.S. Import-Export Bank, India's health minister, Iran's minister of building, Britain's foreign minister, Sweden's minister for cooperation with developing countries, East Germany's defense minister, Former U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, French police officers and the governor of Maryland — along with his state's top sailor, the pride of Baltimore II.

The new Polish government hopes that in addition to teaching and learning, they also have come to give: harvesters for farmers, computers for banks and money to help the nation's young market economy grow.



But some, it seems, mainly come for what photographers call a "grip and grin" with Poland's leadership.

A Western diplomat, regularly required to arrange visits, senses a new ambivalence among Polish officials.

"It is ambivalence because intellectually even some very impatient people realise they are getting pretty generous aid packages from most of the west and it is in their interests to be a good trooper," the diplomat said.

"Still, we have noticed a growing impatience with this constant flow of visitors," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Industry Minister Roger Fauroux of France said his country demands confirmation of Poland's potential and an inspection tour is required.

"We know in France that you have great debts and that the situation is far from being safe. That is why we came here: to verify on the spot to what extent this is true," he said.

Polish officials are reluctant to talk about the down side of being so sought-after.

One with a well-known name, whose portfolio includes pressing economic issues, was overheard by diplomat asking with a tinge of annoyance when faced with a new visitor, "what am I, the minister of tourism?"

Polish leaders have developed A lists and B lists of meeters and greeters according to a visitor's rank, the Western diplomat said.

"Everyone wants to see (Solidarity) Parliament Leader Bronislaw Geremek, everyone wants to see (Lech) Walesa. But just be-

cause everyone wants to come to Poland, it doesn't mean that they can see them," said another Western diplomat. "These guys have things to do. They are trying to get this country on its feet."

Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz, the architect of Poland's economic reform plan, is one of those in "huge demand," said an aide.

"First of all there are the politicians who come here out of curiosity," he said. "And of course all the ambassadors are pushing their way in through doors and windows. We decided Thursdays would be the day for them, so we see a maximum of two every Thursday."

Then there are business executives, the aide said. "There is great danger that one could be granted a meeting and another wouldn't be, so we are really trying to limit them.... of course, we have to make exceptions for really big figures, such as the head of the (West German) Dresdner Bank."

At the labour ministry, Director General Leslaw Nawacki said many visits "have the nature of reconnaissance. People just come to see what we are doing or what kind of help they could offer."

"The main cost of these visits is hard work and time," he said. "People who come often can't really understand the situation in Poland, going from socialism to a market economy. Nobody has done it before and everybody who comes here looks at it from the point of view of the West."

"On the other hand, we must admit with shame that we are not prepared either. It's something completely new to most of us."

Innocence rewarded with 15 years of 'hell'

By Paul Majendie
Reuter

DUBLIN — "If there is a hell, it is being in prison and knowing you are innocent."

Irishman Gerry Conlon speaks those words with the passionate conviction of a man who should know.

He and three others were jailed in 1975 for Irish Republican Army bomb attacks on Britain that they never committed. At the age of 20, he was locked up for life.

Fifteen years later Conlon was freed.

On Oct. 19, 1989 the convictions of the quartet, named "The Guildford Four" after the town where the bombings took place, were quashed and all four were freed after the director of public prosecutions said that police had fabricated evidence against them.

Now Conlon, an articulate and fiercely driven figure, has produced a starkly written autobiography "proved innocent."

"If it picks the conscience of just one member of the British establishment, then it will have been worthwhile," he said in Dublin at the launch.

"I was on the verge of insanity. I was consumed by it," he said, recalling the depression he descended into during the ordeal he thought would never end.

Conlon, a self-confessed petty thief in his native Belfast who loved gambling and smoking marijuana, is now a committed human rights campaigner out to clear the name of his father who died in prison and six other Irishmen jailed for IRA bombings.

Guiseppi Conlon travelled to England from Belfast when Gerry was arrested. He in turn was arrested and in 1976 was convicted with six others of supplying the Guildford bombs. He died in jail, protesting his innocence.

"For me, the worst memory will always be my father dying in prison," Gerry Conlon said.

His last words to his son from a hospital bed were: "when I die I don't want you attacking no screws (prison officers). I want you to start clearing your name. My death's going to clear your name and when you get your name cleared, you clear mine."

Conlon has almost fulfilled that wish.

The British government announced lately that the convictions against his father and the six others accused of running an IRA bomb factory were unsatisfactory and should be referred to the appeal court.

Mrs. Anne McGuire, her husband Patrick, their two sons, two other relatives and Guiseppi Conlon were jailed for between five and 14 years.

But the crusading Conlon cannot stop there. He has vowed to clear the names of the "Birmingham Six" convicted for 1974 pub bombings in Birmingham which killed 21 people in the IRA campaign to get Britain ousted from Northern Ireland.

Conlon, back from congressional hearings in Washington and about to fly to Copenhagen for a human rights conference, said "my life is in total disorder because of the promise I made to the Birmingham Six."

"We shared lots of heartaches together. If I didn't fulfill the promise I made to them, I could never live with myself."

Paul Hill, another of the Guildford Four, is equally convinced that the Birmingham Six and wrote his own autobiography, "The Stolen Years," that came out the same time as Conlon's.

Conlon spent three of his 15 years in solitary confinement and his book grimly recalls his appalling loneliness: "Your cell is a bubble of silence where the only noises are the ones you make yourself. You spend so much time listening to the beat of your own thoughts. It is like being walled in a tomb."

"For long periods your brain shuts down and you just sit looking at the wall. Then you stop noticing time go by which can be the most frightening thing of all," said Conlon, who admits he almost tipped into insanity.

In court the day his nightmare ended, Conlon wore a white carnation which he hurled into the air in jubilation when the judge uttered the word "quashed."

Bounding to freedom outside London's Old Bailey Court, he told cheering supporters "I have spent 15 years in prison for something I didn't do, something I knew nothing about. I watched my father die in prison for something he didn't do. He is innocent."

"Compensation is irrelevant," said Conlon. "How can anyone compensate me for watching my father die a cruel slow death? I still have recurring nightmares about him. I wake up saturated with sweat. But I don't want that to leave me. I want to keep in touch with the simple values in life."

'These children are old'

By John Pomfret
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and forced labour have robbed childhood from more than half of the children in India's capital, according to a recent UNICEF report.

"Why should we call them children?" asked "the invisible child," a UNICEF report issued last week. "These children are grown ups. These children are old."

"The very notion of childhood is eroded by a hostile environment of poverty," the report said. It called on the Indian government to recognise the rights to literacy, health care, play and vocational training of New Delhi's children.

Citing statistics on child labour, health care, infant mortality and education, the report paints an ugly picture of the life of a child in Delhi's slums. It also highlights the plight of India's urban poor, often forgotten in this largely agricultural nation of 880 million people.

More than half of New Delhi's 8 million people inhabit the shanty town, squatters huts and slums of this sprawling metropolis. While the average per capita income in the city is about 7,000 rupees a year (\$411), in the slums the people make one-tenth that amount, the report said.

According to the report, more than 500,000 children, 80 per cent of them illiterate and many underfed, are forced to work in New Delhi.

About 40,000 work as labourers, 20,000 in car repair shops, 30,000 in restaurants and 30,000

as shop assistants, the report said. Tens of thousands more work in one-room factories where labour safety regulations are not enforced. Others scratch by as rag pickers, shoe shine boys, newspaper sellers and porters.

Child labour is only outlawed in India for certain hazardous jobs. Many of the children are bonded labour — latter day slaves, the report said.

"The children have to put with long working hours, eight to 12 hours a day," the report said. "They face verbal, physical and sexual abuse from most people who deal with them."

The necessity of work makes going to school impossible. The report said that a survey of parents in the slums indicated that less than 5 per cent wanted their children to stop working. They just wanted labour conditions to improve.

Girls usually face the worst treatment, the study said, citing long-standing beliefs that girls are less valuable and provide less income to the family than boys.

A survey of eight Delhi slums showed that girls had an infant mortality rate 2.4 times that of boys, 72 per 1,000 compared to 30 per 1,000. Girls are yanked from school faster than boys, fed less and married early, the report said.

Families are twice as apt to take their boys to the hospital than girls, the report said.

"Girls find themselves fighting for survival in a world that denies them equal access to food, health care, education, employment and simple human dignity," the report said.

"I work like a machine," says

Parvati, a 13-year-old girl interviewed by UNICEF. Her parents leave her at home every day to look after her three siblings — an 11-year-old brother and two sisters, 8 and 3.

The family, economic refugees from Bihar, India's poorest state, lives in a hut near a construction site where their father was recently employed.

Parvati prepares food, cares for her siblings when they get sick and helps her mother as a maid. At dinnertime, Parvati is allowed to eat only half the food of her brother.

"The only thing that makes me sad is when someone beats me," she says.

The environment surrounding New Delhi's slums is also miserable.

In many such areas, there is only one toilet for every 150 people and just one household in every 156 has access to portable water, the report said. As little as 9 per cent of the children in one slum were immunised.

Families live in wooden shacks, with plastic roofs. About 35 per cent of slum dwellers defecate in the open and 72 per cent dump their garbage on the street, the report said.

Those seeking health care are often forced to pay even though it is supposed to be free in India. But poor families can't afford bribes demanded by state doctors.

For playing spaces, the children have lots next to septic tanks, dangerous railway tracks and Delhi's Yamuna river.

An estimated 540,000 litres of sewage, most untreated, pours into the river every day.

Black-against-black violence getting out of control in South Africa

By Barry Reinrow
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The daily police reports list the atrocities: nine black men knifed by a mob, three black women burned to death, a 9-year-old girl "necklaced" with a burning tyre.

Nearly always, the victims and their killers are black.

Despite 350 years of black-white racial divisions, one of the ironies of life in South Africa is that thousands of blacks die each year fighting other blacks, instead of apartheid.

At a time when President F.W. de Klerk is moving to end white-minority rule, black-against-black violence is spinning out of control, some analysts say. A culture of violence is becoming part of South African life, they say, threatening hopes of building a peaceful, democratic society.

The independent South African Institute of Race Relations estimates 4,000 people will die in black-against-black violence this year. About 1,400 blacks died in factional fighting in 1989, according to the institute.

Victims are often hacked to death with knives or spears, the mutilated bodies burned. Dozens have been killed by "necklacing," when gasoline-soaked tyres are placed around their necks and set afire.

Some leaders see the threat of a civil war and South Africa becoming another Lebanon.

"The appalling numbers of people who are dying, it is absolutely shocking," anti-apartheid leader Rev. Allan Boesak said in an interview with the Associated Press. "That is the kind of situation that can lead to the Lebanonisation of South Africa."

Some black leaders worry that the growing rivalry among war-



Despite 350 years of black-white racial divisions, thousands of blacks die each year fighting other blacks, instead of apartheid.

ring black factions is the prelude to a struggle for power once white rule ends. Itumeleng Mosala, president of the Azanian People's Organisation, foresees increasing violence between blacks if apartheid ends.

"It's going to continue because violence has a way of repeating itself," he says. "So, I would say that we are going to see a situation of near civil war in this country."

White supporters of apartheid cite black violence when defending white-minority rule. They claim black-majority rule would precede a massive bloodbath.

White settlers in Kenya and Rhodesia, before it became Zimbabwe, used the same argument in opposing the approach of black

rule in those countries. But while rival black groups struggled briefly for power after independence, there was little killing and whites were not singled out for revenge.

The causes of black violence in South Africa are many and complex. Reasons include apartheid, poverty, anti-government struggle, school boycotts, political and ideological rivalry, the collapse of authority, gangs and corruption.

The bloodshed is compounded by old tribal and clan rivalries stretching back over generations.

In the squalid black townships, violence has become a daily part of life for the millions of blacks forced to compete desperately for survival, says Boesak and others. Caught by hopeless poverty and

apartheid laws, violence is one of the few ways for blacks to vent their anger, they say.

"One would have to say that the basic problem here is apartheid, that it has created circumstances in which violence became not only the norm, but the almost natural action and reaction," Boesak says.

In the early 1980s, the African National Congress (ANC), the main black opposition group, called for a programme of destabilisation to make the country "ungovernable" and undermine the white government. Young blacks became the spearhead, demonstrating, attacking police and boycotting schools.

Local administration and con-

trol was undermined in many black townships. Blacks seen as government "collaborators," including black township councilors and black police, were frequently attacked and killed.

But often the anti-government "struggle" is little more than mob violence by youth gangs, says Mohammed Valli Moosa, an anti-apartheid leader. In some black townships there is now virtually no authority and rival groups try to wrest control.

Some black leaders concede these tactics helped create a "lost generation," young blacks raised in poverty with virtually no education and a burning hatred for authority — black and white.

"Many of these youths missed out on education and are unemployed and unemployable," says political analyst David Breier. "They are the generation of 'no education before liberation.'"

But the lawlessness has spread to almost every level, involving businesses, workers and schoolchildren. A recent "war" between rival taxi companies in a Johannesburg township left more than 20 dead.

Criminal gangs have exploited the unrest, sparking wars with radical young blacks. Groups of vigilantes, some linked to police, have warred with rival "commandos" from the ANC and other political groups.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader recently released from prison, and others have attempted to halt the violence by appealing to youths to return to school. But the appeals have been spurned by many who reject negotiation with the government.

"The problem is that many of the youngsters are not really interested in negotiation. In fact, they have become a little bit angry," said senior ANC leader Walter Sisulu.

The violence has been exacerbated by increasingly bitter disputes between rival black political groups. While all are opposed to apartheid, various factions are competing for support with conflicting visions for South Africa's future.

In Natal province, some 5,000 blacks have been killed in recent years in vicious fighting between the conservative Inkatha political movement and allies of the ANC. The struggle pits a traditional group with strong tribal roots against urban forces seeking a modern, ethnically integrated society, analysts say.

The ANC favours confrontational methods such as its guerrilla campaign, sanctions and boycotts, and rejects black homeland governments as part of the apartheid system. Inkatha supports the homeland system, saying blacks must run their own affairs as an interim step on the road to black majority rule.

The struggle has tribal overtones. Inkatha relies on traditional Zulu followers while the ANC-allied United Democratic Front combines urbanised Zulus and other tribes, analysts say.

The PAC broke away from the ANC because of its multiracial foundation. The PAC is an "Africanist" group that campaigns for Africans to control all aspects of life and rejects Western influences.

"Political tolerance is, sadly, not a strong feature of our country," says Alf Stadler, a political science professor at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa's gold-mining and industrial region.

Sri Lanka bans housemaids from going to Kuwait

By Minoli De Soysa
Reuter

COLOMBO — Colombo has banned Sri Lankan women from going to Kuwait to work because some were being forced into prostitution, government officials said.

"I appeal to our women not to go to Kuwait anymore. It is like buying a ticket to hell," Labour Minister M.G. Premachandra told reporters recently after secretly visiting Kuwait disguised as an engineer.

The ban was announced last week and was due to be fully implemented this week, labour ministry officials said.

"When I saw how poor Lankan women taken there as housemaids were being auctioned for prostitution, my blood boiled, and I firmly decided to stop this slave trade," said Premachandra, who said he visited Kuwait earlier this month.

In Kuwait, the Social Affairs Ministry said the Sri Lankan labour minister last visited the country about 18 months ago and declined to comment on the report.

Of the 70,000 Sri Lankan women who had sought domestic work in Kuwait, 17,000 were without jobs, he said.

In April, the government ruled that all women going abroad as maids must have a contract specifying wages and terms and conditions of employment, and approved by the foreign employment bureau.

"We won't approve any contracts to Kuwait," Labour Secretary Justin Dias said.

He said 100 maids came to the Sri Lankan embassy in Kuwait each day to complain of mistreatment by employers. Some were forced to work 12 hours a day and then sent to other houses to additional jobs.

"The girls pay money to agents here and go there thinking they have jobs and then end up stranded," Dias said.

Two rooms in the embassy were full of women who have nowhere to go, the secretary said. Some turn to prostitution to survive.

Some Kuwaiti agents offered to find jobs for stranded Sri Lankan women as maids for low wages, Dias said.

Premachandra said that on his visit to Kuwait, Dias and himself, both disguised, visited a building where 150 "agencies" offered Sri Lankan women to customers seeking prostitutes.

"Photographs of all these girls were in files with prices marked, we could choose any of them," he said.

"They (the women) told us, with tears trickling down their cheeks, how they had been duped by agents, and the pitiful conditions in which they were now," Premachandra said.

"Most of them said they could not go back to their homes now as they would not be accepted by their parents and husbands. They preferred to commit suicide."

"I have never seen such misery."

LA SEMAINE

de Suleiman Sweiss

Chômage: Quelle solution?

Enfin, on a ouvert le dossier du chômage au parlement. C'était mercredi dernier: les débats ont duré cinq heures et la suite aura lieu après la fête Al-Adha. Bien qu'ils soient en session extraordinaire, un grand nombre de députés ont réuni un débat avec le gouvernement sur cette question. Pressé par les citoyens, le bloc islamique a considéré la performance du gouvernement dans ce domaine comme un échec total. Le bloc national a critiqué également la politique économique de M. Moudar Badran. Celui-ci a promis en décembre dernier de combattre le chômage par des mesures énergiques. Or, le sentiment général chez les députés comme chez l'homme de la rue est que le gouvernement n'a pratiquement rien fait durant les six derniers mois pour résoudre le problème.

Le ministre du travail, quant à lui, a présenté un rapport devant le parlement sur l'action des pouvoirs publics. Celle-ci se résume en une série de mesures administratives, juridiques et fiscales. Par ailleurs, il a estimé le nombre des chômeurs à cent-mille, soit 15,6% des forces actives jordaniennes.

Incontestablement, le chômage, avec la vie chère, sont les problèmes qui inquiètent un grand nombre de Jordaniens par les temps qui courent. Curieusement, le chômage a toujours existé dans ce pays, mais dans des proportions supportables. Les autorités s'en débarrassaient en encourageant les Jordaniens à émigrer. La situation économique dans les pays arabes du Golfe permettait cette issue. Depuis six ans, cette solution n'est plus efficace. Ces pays n'ont plus besoin de la main d'œuvre étrangère. Des dizaines de milliers de Jordaniens sont rentrés en Jordanie, en pleine crise économique. La croissance économique est presque nulle et, pire, l'afflux de travailleurs immigrés a continué malgré l'aggravation du chômage. Cet afflux n'avait rien à voir avec les besoins de l'économie jordanienne. La collusion entre les patrons et le ministère du travail au cours des années précédentes a abouti à cette situation dramatique. L'ouvrier immigré accepte un salaire nettement inférieur à celui de l'ouvrier jordanien. C'est pourquoi l'une des solutions adoptées consiste à remplacer graduellement la main d'œuvre immigrée par la main d'œuvre jordanienne.

Le marché du travail a revêtu un caractère bizarre ces dernières années. Paradoxalement, nous sommes un pays à la fois exportateur et importateur de main d'œuvre. Il y a environ 300.000 Jordaniens qui travaillent à l'étranger, mais, en même temps, nous avons parmi nous environ 200.000 travailleurs égyptiens, philippins, pakistanais, syriens, etc. Comment expliquer cette situation, sinon par l'absence qui règne dans le marché du travail?

D'un autre côté, le système d'enseignement a été dissocié pendant longtemps des besoins productifs de l'économie du pays. L'Etat a toujours été le secteur absorbant les diplômés. Or il a atteint le point de saturation ces dernières années. Les secteurs qui peuvent toujours créer des emplois sont l'industrie et l'agriculture. Cela nous amène à constater que le développement de ces deux secteurs est la clef permettant de résoudre le problème du chômage.

Pendant longtemps, les autorités se sont dérobées face à ce problème, qui devient de plus en plus aigu. On a, assurément, perdu beaucoup de temps. Il faut commencer par créer de nouvelles industries et augmenter la surface des terrains exploitables dans le domaine agricole. Jusqu'ici, les solutions gouvernementales sont surtout d'ordre technique ou partielles.

Nous croyons que la solution du problème du chômage commence par la restructuration de l'économie du pays et par la réforme du système d'enseignement. Nous devrions revaloriser le travail agricole et encourager les jeunes à exploiter la terre. L'agriculture a été, et est toujours, génératrice de la richesse du pays. Elle crée des emplois. De plus, le développement de ce secteur nous amène à diminuer notre dépendance alimentaire. Bref, la solution radicale est d'élargir la base productive de l'économie jordanienne.



L'inauguration d'un arc d'Hadrien à Jerash

Résurrection d'une porte

L'Institut Français d'Architecture au Proche-Orient (IFAPO) a inauguré jeudi dernier la porte sud de Jerash, restaurée par ses soins. Construite en 129 après J.C. en l'honneur de la visite de l'Empereur Hadrien, cette porte avait été en grande partie

Il porte un nom digne d'un personnage bande dessinée. Ne vous y trompez pas pourtant: l'IFAPO est un institut très sérieux, qui prend son travail à cœur et s'y connaît comme personne pour reconstituer des monuments vieux de plusieurs siècles avec la plus parfaite exactitude.

Pas facile pourtant de reconstituer un immense puzzle à trois dimensions, dont on n'a pas l'image initiale, dont les pièces sont dispersées dans le désordre le plus absolu et qui sont parfois mélangées avec les pièces d'un autre puzzle, un autre monument en ruines. Il faut faire preuve d'astuce et d'esprit d'enquête. Il faut partir à la recherche des pièces manquantes, des informations et des indices: un vrai travail de détective, intelligent et perspicace.

L'histoire de la mission française à Jerash débute en 1982. C'est la période des vaches grasses pour la Jordanie, le dinar vaut 24F. Le gouvernement décide donc de lancer un grand programme archéologique à Jerash: 2 millions de dinars pour cinq ans. Le site est divisé en cinq secteurs confiés à douze équipes d'archéologues et architectes étrangers, qui travaillent d'arrache-pied.

Pourtant, après un an seulement, les choses se gâtent brutalement. Les autorités jordaniennes constatent que les équipes creusent, cherchent, trouvent des pierres, mais que rien, aucun bâtiment, ne sort de terre. Aucun résultat visible susceptible d'attirer les touristes. Les coupables: ce sont les archéologues; ce qu'il faut, ce sont des architectes.

Par chance, l'équipe française ne compte que deux archéologues parmi ses membres: tous les autres sont justement des architectes. Elle va ainsi devenir la protégée du ministère du tourisme et des antiquités.

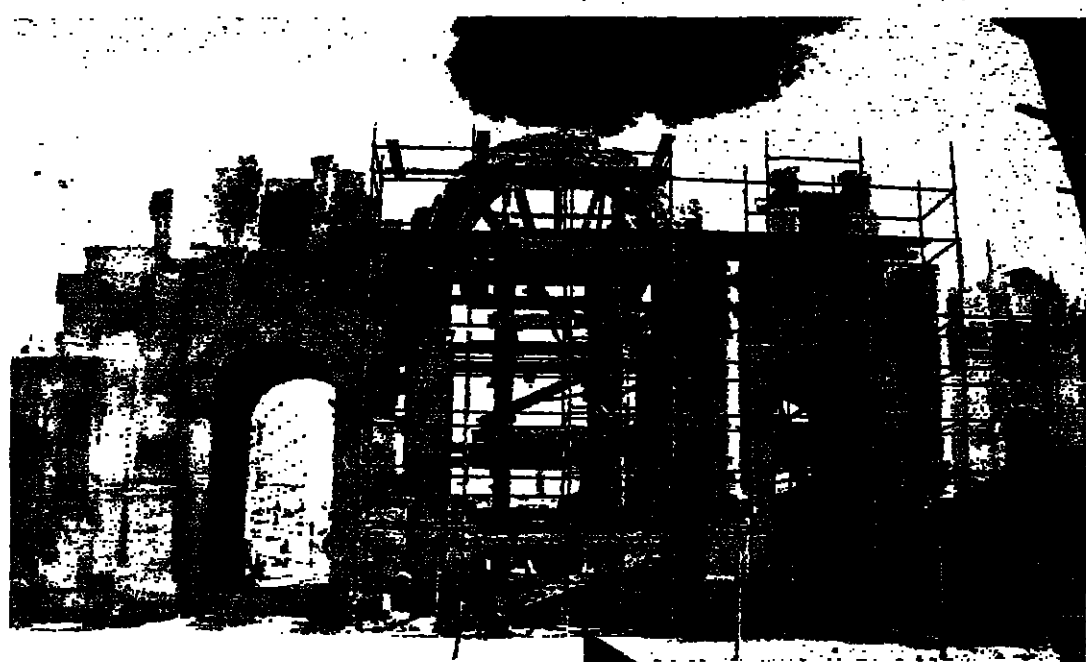
«En fait, ce qui nous intéresse, confie Jacques Seigne, le directeur de la mission française, c'est de fouiller et de reconstituer les monuments sur le papier. La phase de reconstruction matérielle, qui s'apparente à un chantier de bâtiments et travaux publics nous intéresse beaucoup moins. Mais puisque c'était la condition sine qua non pour continuer à travailler (notamment sur le sanctuaire de Zeus qui me passionne) nous avons accepté de travailler sur la porte sud. On la reconstituait d'abord sur le papier et on verrait bien, après, si l'on dispose de suffisamment d'éléments pour passer à la reconstruction matérielle.»

Voilà l'homme

En 1986 arrive à l'IFAPO un jeune architecte français venu faire son service national dans le cadre de la coopération. Il s'appelle Christophe Wagner, et Jacques Seigne lui confie la tâche de reconstituer le puzzle de l'arc d'Hadrien. La tâche n'est pas facile. Construite au II^e siècle de notre ère, la porte a été détruite au VI^e siècle, sans qu'on sache très bien pourquoi. Séisme? Guerre? Envie de s'en débarrasser? Mystère.

Les choses auraient été re-

truite, par le temps et par les hommes. Un travail de longue haleine pour les architectes de l'IFAPO, qui ont dû retrouver les morceaux, dispersés parfois à des kilomètres à la ronde, pour les remettre en ordre et leur redonner leur place exacte.



Les échafaudages au milieu, voici la porte d'Hadrien telle qu'elle se présente aujourd'hui, comme il y a vingt siècles.

lativement faciles pour Christophe si personne n'avait jamais touché aux restes du monument depuis sa destruction. Mais il en était autrement. Au fil du temps on avait pris des pierres de la porte pour construire des maisons ou des abris à cochons. Dans les années 1930, une équipe américaine s'était intéressée au monument et avait déplacé un certain nombre de blocs. En 1975-80, enfin, le ministère du tourisme et des antiquités de Jordanie avait fait déplacer au bulldozer des amas de pierres pour construire le rest-house et réaliser les aménagements touristiques de Jerash. Christophe ne pouvait donc pas s'appuyer sur un simple plan de chute pour retrouver la place originelle des pierres.

Il fallut donc utiliser sa cervelle et partir à la pêche aux informations. On écrivit à l'équipe américaine des années 1930. Bien organisés et très coopératifs, les Américains offrirent leurs cahiers de fouille et fournirent toutes les photos du monument prises à l'époque: tout ce qui restait debout et les blocs de pierre éparpillés dont on pouvait retrouver ainsi le lieu de chute et donc la place dans le monument avant les déplacements ultérieurs. C'est ainsi qu'on s'aperçut que des blocs qui n'y étaient pas quarante ans plus tôt, avaient été replacés sur le monument dans les années 1970 sans savoir si c'était bien leur véritable place. On s'aperçut même que certaines pierres avaient purement et simplement disparu des abords de la porte, alors qu'elles y étaient encore dans les années 1930. C'est grâce au département des antiquités de Jordanie qu'on réussit finalement à remettre la main sur ces fameux blocs: ils avaient été utilisés pour restaurer le théâtre d'Amman, à 48Km!

Les techniques

Coup de chance pour Christophe Wagner, la porte sud avait été construite à la va vite pour être prête le jour de l'arrivée d'Hadrien. On n'avait pas pris le temps d'aplanir l'assise du monu-

ment, qui présentait donc une différence de 21cm d'une extrémité à l'autre. Pour rattraper cette différence, toute une moitié de la porte est constituée de blocs légèrement plus grands que ceux de l'autre moitié. Il suffit donc de mesurer la taille d'un bloc pour savoir s'il va à droite ou à gauche. De plus, pour aller plus vite, deux équipes travaillaient simultanément. Leurs techniques étaient légèrement différentes et, là encore, il suffit de bien observer les caractéristiques des blocs pour savoir quelle équipe les a travaillés, et donc de quel côté ils doivent aller. La double symétrie du monument (droite-gauche et avant-arrière) facilite également le travail: lorsqu'on est sûr qu'une pierre va à un endroit précis, on sait du même coup que sa soeur jumelle va à l'emplacement correspondant de la deuxième moitié. Ainsi, peu à peu, l'ensemble prend forme, les pièces s'imbriquent les unes avec les autres, et le puzzle se reconstitue.

«Mais nous n'en sommes qu'à la phase intellectuelle de la reconstruction. On ne déplace pas les blocs: on les observe, on les numérote et on les dessine sur un grand plan, où, chacun à sa place, ils constituent l'image de l'arc d'Hadrien. Ce qui frappe les architectes de l'IFAPO, à ce stade des opérations, c'est le nombre de pierres retrouvées finalement. Aux 25% de pierres qui étaient restées en place, sont venues s'ajouter 48% de pierres retrouvées ici ou là. Au total, donc, ce sont 74% des pierres originelles qui ont été retrouvées alors que dans la plupart des chantiers d'Europe, il faut se contenter d'un taux de 5%. Pour cette raison, il devenait tout à fait imaginable de passer à l'étape de la reconstruction matérielle de l'arc. Mais plusieurs problèmes se posaient. Il fallait trouver des tailleurs de pierre compétents pour façonner les 26% de blocs manquants, aux reliefs parfois très complexes à réaliser. L'autre problème, c'était l'absence de Christophe qui, son service national terminé, était

Remerciements

C'est beaucoup pour remercier Christophe Wagner de ce geste, et de l'énorme travail qu'il a réalisé à Jerash, que l'IFAPO a tenu à inaugurer officiellement la grande porte sud dans son intégrité retrouvée. C'était aussi l'occasion de montrer qu'on peut arriver à des résultats spectaculaires en travaillant beaucoup et bien. «Mais pour cela il faut intéresser les gens à leur travail, insiste Jacques Seigne. Nous avons travaillé avec de bons tailleurs de pierre que nous avons eu du mal à dénicher et que nous avons formés à ce travail très particulier. Le problème, c'est qu'ils ne sont payés que deux dinars par jour, ce qui ne leur permet pas de vivre et ne correspond pas à l'importance de leur travail. A ce prix là, ils préfèrent devenir chauffeurs de taxi que continuer ce travail. Nous l'équipe française nous estimons avoir rempli notre contrat et nous nous apprêtons à sortir du projet de Jerash... Il est tant que les autorités jordaniennes prennent la relève et sachent utiliser les gens que nous avons formés ici. Pour cela, il faut reconnaître leur compétence et les payer selon leur mérite et leur valeur.»

L'IFAPO a ouvert une porte. Aux suivants de faire en sorte qu'elle ne se reforme pas.

Jean-Marc Bordes

EN BREF

Ambassadeur. Le gouvernement jordanien a nommé un ambassadeur en Libye. Le premier depuis 1984, date de la rupture des relations entre les deux pays, rétablies en 1987. Les relations entre les deux pays avaient été rompues à la suite du sacage de l'ambassade de Jordanie à Tripoli. Le roi Hussein a été invité par le colonel Khadafi à se rendre en Libye, mais aucune date n'a encore été avancée pour cette visite, qui serait la première du souverain jordanien, depuis août 1979.

Opposition. Le gouvernement jordanien a autorisé pour la première fois une publication de l'opposition à être distribuée dans le pays. «Al-Urdun Al-Jahid» (La Nouvelle Jordanie) est désormais en vente dans les librairies et les kiosques. Son rédacteur en chef, M. Hani Hourani, considère cette autorisation comme un pas positif qui l'encourage à poursuivre la publication depuis Amman, au lieu de Nicosie (Chypre).

Pessimisme. Un des principaux dirigeants palestiniens, Abou Iyad, a affirmé s'attendre à une attaque israélienne contre la Jordanie dans les six mois. Selon lui, cette offensive «intégrale» dans la stratégie du gouvernement Shamir visant à occuper une partie de la Jordanie afin d'y absorber les Palestiniens et d'y résoudre leur problème. Abou Iyad a exhorté les Arabes à accorder un soutien militaire à Amman, préconisant la constitution d'un «front commun» composé de l'OLP, de la Jordanie, de la Syrie et de l'Irak.

Aide. L'Arabie Saoudite a accordé une aide de 100 millions de dollars à la Jordanie, ce qui porte le montant total de l'aide des pays arabes à la Jordanie, depuis le début de l'année, à 265 millions de dollars. Cette somme ne constitue que le premier versement de la contribution saoudienne pour 1990, dont le montant final n'a pas été précisé.

Mecque. Un peu plus de 1.500 musulmans soviétiques, désireux d'effectuer cette année le pèlerinage de la Mecque, seront hébergés aux frais du roi Fahd d'Arabie Saoudite. Il s'agit du plus important contingent de musulmans soviétiques venus à la Mecque depuis plusieurs dizaines d'années. En 1989, seule une trentaine de pèlerins d'URSS étaient venus en Arabie.

Réunifications. Ce dimanche entre en vigueur la réunification économique allemande, qui se caractérise essentiellement par l'introduction du Deutschmark en RDA. Simultanément, tous les contrôles à la frontière entre les deux Etats sont supprimés. Ainsi disparaît la frontière qui était autrefois la plus hermétique du monde. Prochaine étape: la réunification politique, avec des élections pan-allemandes, prévues «véritablement» pour le 9 décembre prochain.

Mandela. Le dirigeant noir sud-africain Nelson Mandela a quitté Washington mercredi après deux jours d'entrevues avec les plus hauts responsables américains. Il a notamment été reçu par le Président Bush et a pu s'adresser au Congrès réuni en session conjointe. Sa visite a toutefois suscité une certaine polémique entre Américains après ses récents propos de soutien, prononcés à la télévision, au colonel Khadafi et à Fidel Castro.

Incendies. Une série d'incendies, la plupart d'origine criminelle, ont ravagé plus de 300 maisons dans le sud de la Californie, menaçant les alentours de la métropole de Los Angeles. Dix-sept pompiers ont été blessés à l'est de la ville alors qu'ils luttent contre un incendie s'étalant sur une cinquantaine d'hectares. Au nord de Los Angeles, les flammes, qui couvraient une surface de plus de 1.500 hectares, ont brûlé 280 maisons dans les seules villes de Santa-Barbara et Goleta.

Télévision. Les reportages de la cinquième chaîne française (privée) vont être diffusés dans une trentaine de pays d'Afrique et du Proche-Orient, suite à un contrat signé avec Canal France International, banque de programmes diffusés par satellite. La Jordanie, la Syrie, le Maroc, l'Egypte et le Liban font partie des bénéficiaires de cette offre.

Droite. Les deux grandes formations de l'opposition conservatrice française ont décidé mardi soir de créer une confédération baptisée Union pour la France (UPF), pour tenter de reprendre l'initiative face au pouvoir socialiste et à une extrême-droite en forte progression. Le Rassemblement pour la République (RPR, néogaulliste) et l'Union pour la Démocratie Française (UDF, libérale) ont adopté un système de «primaires» pour désigner un candidat unique à la prochaine élection présidentielle, prévue pour 1995.

Racisme. Deux hommes ont été condamnés mercredi par la justice française à la prison à perpétuité, peine maximale en France, pour une série d'attentats racistes ayant fait un mort et cinq blessés en 1987 dans l'ouest du pays, en Normandie. L'un d'eux a avoué avoir tué à Caen un épiciériste algérien avec une arme à feu. L'autre avait déposé une bombe qui avait fait trois blessés, dans un bar du Petit-Quevilly fréquenté par des Maghrébins.

Cache-cache. Les élus de la mairie de Moscou sont en émoi: un buste de Lénine a disparu mercredi, après un vif débat sur les symboles officiels au Mossoviets, la municipalité de Moscou, dont les progressistes ont pris récemment le contrôle. Quelques minutes avant l'ouverture de la session, deux députés avaient emporté le buste de Lénine qui se trouvait au fond de l'estrade, pour le cacher derrière les rideaux. Le buste avait été remis en place pendant l'interruption de séance du matin par des députés communistes, avant d'être à nouveau déplacé par un député qui fit en sorte que Lénine tourne le dos à la salle. Finalement, quand les débats reprirent, en début d'après-midi, le buste était définitivement introuvable...

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Sécurité sociale en Jordanie

Un système à deux vitesses

Le système de Sécurité sociale en Jordanie se caractérise par un statut très différent selon qu'on est fonctionnaire, bénéficiant de la protection de

Dès les années 1940, la Jordanie a voulu adopter des systèmes de protection sociale. Pour les fonctionnaires et les militaires, la retraite est en application depuis déjà des décennies. Mais il aura fallu attendre 1979 pour que la croissance économique et les changements sociaux du pays donnaient naissance à une loi instaurant la retraite civile, pour les salariés du secteur privé. Plus récemment, des mesures ont été prises afin de renforcer l'étendue de la protection et de la solidarité sociale: c'est l'aide sociale aux familles pauvres, fondée en 1986. C'est aussi la prime de fin de service, offerte par certains établissements privés aux salariés qui partent à la retraite.

Les organismes de sécurité sociale en Jordanie sont au nombre de deux: l'un, financé par l'Etat, est destiné aux fonctionnaires et militaires et porte le nom d'«Assurance sociale». L'autre s'appelle la «Sécurité sociale» et couvre obligatoirement tous les salariés du secteur privé. Il est financé par les patrons, qui versent 8% du salaire brut de l'employé, et par l'em-

ployé lui-même, qui doit verser 5% de son salaire. La somme des cotisations s'élève à 50 millions de dinars par an environ. Un capital qui, placé sur le marché boursier, rapporte gros: 20 millions de dinars, selon M. Ali Issa, le directeur du service de relations publiques de la Sécurité sociale.

A ce jour, la Sécurité sociale (financée par les cotisations) offre une protection dans les cas suivants: accidents du travail, vieillesse, invalidité et décès. Dans les cas de maladie liée à la profession, tous les soins médicaux sont assurés, et ceci jusqu'à la guérison. La Sécurité sociale paie même 75% du salaire pendant le séjour à l'hôpital ou les congés de maladie, et les frais de transport sont remboursés. En revanche, aucune somme n'est versée à l'assuré en cas de maladie non liée à la profession.

L'âge de la retraite en Jordanie est de 60 ans pour les hommes et de 55 ans pour les femmes. Parvenu à cet âge, l'assuré a droit à une retraite à condition qu'il ait cotisé pendant au moins dix ans.

En cas d'invalidité à plus de 30%, et si cette invalidité est due à un accident du travail, l'assuré peut prétendre à une retraite régulière, à condition d'avoir cotisé pendant les douze derniers mois au moins. Mais, si l'invalidité est inférieure à 30%, il ne reçoit qu'une prime ponctuelle.

Pour toucher une pension après un décès, enfin, il faut avoir cotisé pendant 36 mois. Chaque fois qu'une de ces conditions n'est pas remplie, la prime ponctuelle remplace la retraite régulière.

A la sécurité sociale, on est mathématicien. Tout est calculé par ordinateur, peut-être même l'âge de l'assuré! La retraite vieillesse, par exemple, est calculée ainsi: 2% de la moyenne du salaire total pendant les deux dernières années.

Dans les cas d'invalidité ou de décès, la pension représente 50% du salaire de la dernière année de travail.

La prime ponctuelle, enfin, peut varier, selon les cotisations de l'assuré, entre 10 et 15% de la somme des salaires reçus pendant la période active.

Osama Al-Qudab

Bédouins

La simplicité comme règle de vie

Selon la définition donnée par des savants arabes tels que Al-Rasi ou Al-Kalkachindi les Bédouins sont les Arabes qui s'installent dans le désert. Ils se distinguent ainsi des Arabes, qui vivent dans les villes.

Pour le savant Ibn khaldoun, fondateur de la sociologie arabe, l'existence des Bédouins est antérieure à l'apparition des villes, car l'urbanisme est la manifestation de l'opulence et de la prospérité.

Un deuxième aspect qui différencie les Bédouins des autres Kabyles arabes est leur mode de vie. Les Bédouins sont classés en trois catégories:

- 1- Ceux qui vivent de l'élevage des chameaux,
- 2- Ceux qui vivent de l'élevage des bœufs et des vaches,
- 3- Ceux qui exercent l'agriculture simple et primitive qui permet la nature du désert, là où il y a un peu de pluie et beaucoup de sable, ce qui explique l'absence d'une agriculture stable.

Un aspect essentiel de la vie des Bédouins est leur déplacement continu, qui dépend en grande partie du choix de l'implantation: là où il y a de l'eau, de l'herbe et de la sécurité.

L'animal symbole du Bédouin est le chameau, avec son endurance particulière. On l'appelle même le vaisseau du désert.

Chaque Kabye (tribu) a son territoire spécifique qui s'appelle «Dirhe» c'est à dire la patrie. Bien que le Bédouin considère tous les pays arabes comme sa patrie, indépendamment des frontières politiques qui séparent les états, il a une grande nostalgie pour sa «Dirhe», quand il en est éloigné.

Le kabye n'abandonne son territoire spécifique que par obligation. Le Bédouin est loyal envers sa tribu, il est honoré par cette appartenance, il retient par cœur le nom de ses vieux ancêtres.

Les liens du sang sont la base

Sommet de Dublin

La CEE désapprouve Israël

Réunis mardi à Dublin (Irlande), les douze chefs d'Etat ou de gouvernement de la Communauté européenne ont adopté une déclaration condamnant la politique israélienne d'implantation de juifs soviétiques dans les territoires occupés.

Tout en «reconnaissant» et en «soutenant» le droit des juifs soviétiques à émigrer, en Israël ou ailleurs, ils ont estimé que ce droit ne saurait être appliqué au détriment des Palestiniens dans les territoires occupés. Ils ont également souligné l'insuffisance de la protection des droits de l'Homme dans ces territoires, où «le statu-quo n'est pas tenable».

Le lendemain même, le président du parlement européen, M. Baron Crespo, rencontrait M. Yasser Arafat à Tunis. Il a examiné cette prise de position communautaire avec le chef de l'OLP, qui s'est déclaré satisfait.

La Ligue arabe a également fait part de sa satisfaction et a exprimé le souhait que la Communauté européenne puisse user

du tribalisme kabye. C'est pour cette raison que les Bédouins se marient souvent dans leur propre famille: le mariage entre cousins est un phénomène fréquent. De même les Bédouins pensent à vendre leurs propriétés entre eux, avant de penser à les vendre à des étrangers.

La société bédouine résiste longtemps aux modifications culturelles, ce qui explique sa tendance à glorifier le passé, son respect de la tradition, des ancêtres, et sa peur de l'inconnu. Le Bédouin ne s'aventure pas à abandonner une société connue pour une autre, inconnue.

L'environnement domine la vie du Bédouin, ce qui suscite chez lui une nature méfiante. Il surveille l'évolution de l'atmosphère, il craint la pluie, l'inondation et la sécheresse. De même, il se méfie de l'invasion et du vol. Le Bédouin respecte le cavalier, l'homme généreux et l'homme âgé, parce que l'expérience et la culture, pour la société bédouine, sont proportionnelles à l'âge.

Le Bédouin n'admet pas le travail manuel, il n'accepte pas de le pratiquer en tant que métier. C'est pour cette raison qu'il n'a ni cultivé la terre, ni participé à l'industrie primitive (fabrication des épées et des armes, des outils ménagers, remplacement des fers à cheval). Il a préféré laisser ces travaux à des personnes non-bédouines qu'il considère d'une classe inférieure.

Le Bédouin se caractérise par sa magnanimité, son respect du voisin, sa protection de l'étranger et son esprit d'entraide. Sa position sociale dépend de la bonne exécution de ces principes. Dans le cas contraire, il perd son importance dans sa tribu et aux yeux des autres tribus.

Enfin la relation entre la souveraineté et la base populaire s'équilibre par la consultation reconnue de tous sur les affaires générales.

Ghalida Hadidi.

A L'AFFICHE

FOCUS

Ballet au CCR

Une petite histoire de la danse

The English National Ballet nous invite cette fin de semaine -les 5, 6 et 7 juillet au Centre Culturel Royal- à un spectacle qui, à bien y regarder, fait l'effet d'un abrégé de l'histoire du ballet et de la danse moderne. Les trois pièces au programme -Coppella (1870), Les Sylphides (1909) et La Pavane du Maure (1949)- marquent selon les cas l'apogée d'un style ou la naissance d'un vocabulaire gestuel nouveau.

Pour les non-initiés, la nouvelle est donc plutôt bonne. La compagnie présentera Les Sylphides et La Pavane du Maure comme un travail de reconstitution historique de l'original; la troisième pièce, Coppella, réinterprétée par Ronald Hynd, s'inspire de l'œuvre de Marius Petipa, Français installé en Russie, qui au dernier quart du XIXème siècle a développé la technique de l'école russe classique. C'est Petipa qui a créé la féerie de Tchaikovski. Le lac des cygnes. A travers Coppella, on aura un échantillon de ses méthodes.

Les Sylphides -mises en scène par Dame Alicia Markova- est la création de Michel Fokine, un Russe, qui n'appréciait pas les règles et les formules de Petipa et qui devint le plus grand chorégraphe du XXème siècle. The English National Ballet incarnera alors ce que Michel Fokine appelait des principes nouveaux. Il insista en effet en 1904 pour que la danse se libère des recettes de gestes et de postures toutes faites, bonne dans tous les contextes. Il voulait que le danseur se livre à un traitement individuel de la pièce. Ses idées portèrent ses fruits lorsqu'il créa Les Sylphides, point culminant des Ballets Russes de Diaghilev, le ballet le plus expérimental de la première moitié du siècle.

Autre aspect de cet effort de libération, le choix des musiques jouera un rôle aussi fondamental que le geste. Fokine utilisera la musique de manière insolite en s'inspirant de morceaux écrits pour les salles de concert. Une suite de cinq morceaux de Chopin -un prélude, une nocturne, deux mazurkas et une valse- auront une portée dépassant le rythme et la décoration mélodique. Eléments à part entière du ballet, elles engageront le danseur dans une action réciproque et individualisée.

Créé au milieu du siècle, La Pavane du Maure (The Moor's Pavane) de Jose Limon, Américain, reflète les effets de cette libération initiale. Elève et disciple de Doris Humphrey, pionnière de la danse moderne aux Etats-Unis, il est, comme Fokine, un formaliste rigoureux qui veut laisser à l'artiste un maximum d'expression individuelle. Sa Pavane sera un hybride de ballet et de danse moderne. S'inspirant d'un thème tiré de l'histoire d'Othello, Limon explore les possibilités offertes par la plasticité du corps pour exprimer l'effet destructeur d'une passion grandissante. Construite dans le cadre d'une pavane baroque (musique Henry Purcell), cette danse décrit l'épreuve que subit l'âme oscillante d'un mari saisi de jalousie. Elle est construite et réalisée pour The English National Ballet par Jennifer Scanlon.

Ironie: l'aspect le plus audacieux du programme se trouve dissimulé dans la plus classique des représentations: le troisième acte de Coppella. De nos jours, la plupart des productions de ce ballet comique se réfèrent aux indications scéniques empruntées à Marius Petipa, qui les avait lui-même empruntées à Arthur Saint-Leon, le premier chorégraphe de Coppella. Grâce à Petipa, un grand nombre des conceptions de cette production légendaire (Paris, 1870) ont été retenues. Par contre, celles concernant le troisième acte, dont seul le livret nous reste, ont complètement disparu, laissant le champ libre au chorégraphe moderne. L'Anglais Ronald Hynd, enchanté à 14 ans par la musique de Delibes et converti au ballet par une représentation de Coppella, se propose de prendre ce troisième acte à bras le corps et de le façonner à sa manière.

Une pièce révéuse (Les Sylphides), un drame tragique (La Pavane du Maure) et l'allégresse d'une féerie aux détours inattendus (Coppella): trois soirées prometteuses.

Sami Kamal

DIVERS

Ballets. Trois spectacles présentés par The English National Ballet sous le patronage de la Reine Noor. Au programme: «Les Sylphides», «La Pavane du Maure» et «Coppella». Voir FOCUS. Centre Culturel Royal, les jeudi 5, vendredi 6 et samedi 7 juillet à 20h, avec une matinée le samedi à 15h. Tickets en vente au CCR et au British Council: 10 dinars pour les soirées et 4 dinars pour la matinée.

JEUX

Mots croisés

par Florence Mantel

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.
1: appréciés par le plus grand nombre. 2: petits d'ours; pronom personnel. 4: toujours plus; c'est le premier qui coûte. 5: peuple les forêts; en tenue d'Adam. 6: cochonnes; compté en nombre d'années. 7: de bonne heure; source d'énergie. 8: privés de leur liberté. 9: lion romain. 10: plantes laxatives; éroses.

Verticalement.
A: virtuels. B: alternatif; marque le féminin. C: prudence ou grand soin. D: coutumes; constellation. E: réverences obstquées. F: période; lentilles. G: égal en grec; presque. H: le premier département français. I: servira au point d'étouffer. J: pronom personnel; sont provoqués par les grosses chaleurs.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N. 16:

Horizontalement.
1: obligation. 2: routes. 3: ni; in; plus. 4: étendue; et. 5: membre. 6: traces. 7: R; R; R. 8: traits. 9: iron. 10: rictus; et.

Verticalement.
A: ornementer. B: boîte. C: lu; extra. D: itinéraire. E: gendre; non. F: as; restant. G: pense; te. H: ire; tête. I: ré; sonne. J: niera, na.

CINEMA

TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

17h55 - Denver, le dernier dinosaure. Dessin animé pour les enfants. 18h20 - Les pêcheurs du golfe d'Oman. Documentaire. 18h35 - Ca c'est du cinéma. Documentaire. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Sélection de variétés françaises.

LUNDI

18h10 - L'homme et la nature. Série documentaire, consacrée cette semaine aux terres arides. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI

17h50 - Espace francophone. Documentaire. 18h20 - Des chiffres et des lettres. Jeu. 18h40 - Tel Père, Tel Fils. Série humoristique. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: magazine local réalisé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

MERCREDI

17h30 - L'ami Maupassant. Série sur la vie de cet auteur Français né en 1850 et mort en 1893. Aujourd'hui: «Mme Baptiste, jeune fille». 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Documentaire.

JEUDI

17h40 - «Molierissimo» (10): dessin animé pour les jeunes. 20 ans d'histoire de France, vu par un enfant de 10 ans, en compagnie du dramaturge Molière. 18h10 - Des Chiffres et des Lettres. Jeu. 18h30 - La Chance aux Chansons: émission de variétés françaises du passé, présentée par Pascal Sevran. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Sélection de variétés françaises.

SAMEDI

17h30 - «Champs-Élysées». Emission de variétés présentée par Michel Drucker, avec Roger Hanin en invité vedette. 19h00 - Le Journal. 19h15 - Documentaire éducatif: Le noyau atomique.

EXPOSITIONS

France. Vitrine présentant la ville de Saintes, «Médiolanum» pour les Romains, qui fut un temps la capitale de la région Aquitaine (Sud-ouest). Elle présente aujourd'hui de nombreux vestiges romains, romans, gothiques... Centre culturel français, du 1er au 30 juillet.

Impressions marines

Ave Egeria,

J'ai rêvé cette nuit, et je suis encore sous le charme de ce songe qui vient de loin, dont ma vie est pétrée.

J'ai cinq ans. Avec grand-mère et papa nous arrivons, la nuit, à l'hôpital italien de Karak. Il n'y a pas de lumière électrique. Les lampes à pétrole sont allumées et le poêle aussi. L'odeur du pétrole qui brûle me suivra toute la vie, me donnera toujours une grande émotion. La nuit, le vent se déchaine avec violence et les volets en métal gémissent et tapent contre les chassiss des fenêtres. Les draps du lit sont en grosse toile blanche, le contact rêche contre la peau est curieux. Je bouge les jambes et les pieds pour éveiller à chaque mouvement cette sensation. Plus bas, autour de l'obstétricien, hyène et chacals rient et hurlent. Je suis fascinée. Mon cœur bat rapidement. Des sueurs froides me mouillent le visage et les mains. J'ai la bouche sèche. A l'improviste la voix de Nonna, ma grand-mère, qui me parle, ou qui se parle toute seule: «Ce chacal et cette hyène, à intervalles de trois temps, forment des accords en Do majeur. Etrange le contraste avec le rire en mineur de cette autre bête». Je connais ces élocutions de grand-mère. Tous les bruits, toutes les voix, jusqu'au plus petit froufroutement sont musiqués pour elle. Elle les traduit en notes, à longueur de journées. Do, Doooododo, Sol, La, Fa-dièse, Mi, Mi, Mi... Je connais hyène et chacals, mais je n'ai jamais entendu un pareil concert. D'un coup, j'imagine ces fauves avec une auréole faite de notes. De notes jaunes, vertes, bleues, phosphorescentes, telles un essaim d'abeilles lumineuses. Je n'ai plus peur, il me reste seulement la fascination de cette nuit sorcière.

Le lendemain, une longue journée sur piste. Le ciel est plein de gros nuages. Très gros et très blancs, gonflés. Etendue avec les jambes sur celles de papa et la tête sur celle de Nonna, je découvre un univers d'images dans ce ciel plein de mouvement.

L'étape finale du voyage est Aqaba: des palmiers, des maisonnettes à la blancheur aveuglante, de l'eau transparente et pleine de poissons. Toutes les couleurs de l'arc en ciel. Radwan, le pêcheur, me fait cadeau de coquillages, me montre les dauphins, me fait traverser le golfe en barque et là, en face d'Aqaba, où il n'y a rien qu'une immense plage de sable fin, descendant doucement par degrés dans la mer, il m'apprend à nager. Il porte des siris blancs qui flottent dans l'eau.

Souvenirs faits d'impressions-éclairs, tâches de couleurs, haleine d'odeurs, vague éphémère de saveurs. L'eau salée, la chair glissante et iodée des huîtres entre langue et palais, bottes de feuilles de palmier qui brûlent comme des torches, portées sur l'épaule par les pêcheurs, pour illuminer le récif de corail, là où l'eau rencontre la plage. On pose un pied chaussé sur le homard endormi et on le prends avec la main pour le jeter dans un grand sac. Je n'ai pas suffisamment de force pour contre-carier le coup de queue du crustacé qui risque à chaque coup de m'enlever l'écrocher les fesses sur le corail du fond. Mais Radwan est là et me remet debout en me soulevant par un bras. Ses yeux rient, il me trouve courageuse. Les petites tortues de mer à peine sorties de l'œuf qui fébrilement luttent en rampant avec leurs minuscules pattes pour gagner l'eau, leurs œufs semblables à des balles de ping-pong. Et puis la misère des étoiles qui me donnent l'infinie nostalgie des espaces palcatiques, éveillant la mémoire inconsciente d'un vécu très lointain. La piqure des aiguilles des oursins, soignée avec du sable chaud ou une cigarette approchée de la peau. Les jeux sur la plage avec les pagures. Et la transparence bleue et verte de l'eau: cette eau dans laquelle on me fait voir, à travers un bidon à fond de verre, les paysages, sous-marins: éponges, corails, coquillages, poissons, oursins, un monde fabuleux qui représentera dans ma vie future, le merveilleux. L'œuf me prend de me laisser glisser dans ce monde marin et devenir créature aquatique, algue, pour ondoyer au rythme sinueux du courant, m'évanouir et me dissoudre un peu dans chacune des créatures qui vivent dans ces abîmes lumineux et savoureux.

Combien de voyages à Aqaba sont résumés dans ce songe? Un seul? Plusieurs? Pour moi il n'y a que l'avant-guerre et l'après-guerre. Le merveilleux interrompu par la laideur des bombardements, de la peur, de la faim. La faim? Pas vraiment, on mangéait des châtignes, mais une faim plus grande de bonnes choses, de paix, d'harmonie. La faim de ce qui est beau, qui nous est donné avec la vie et qu'on ne sait pas toujours apprécier et garder. Je te parlerai encore d'Aqaba, la prochaine fois.

Vale, Egeria

Pressure mounts on OPEC quota-busters

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azadeh, joining a growing assault on Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota-busters, said Saturday the organisation must take a tougher stand when it meets next month.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries has not been firm enough in the past with over-producers, especially the United Arab Emirates, he told Reuters in an interview.

"A country cannot be a member of an organisation and act against it. The members have not reacted seriously enough to this problem yet," he said.

"Any decision without discipline means nothing." Azadeh accused Kuwait of over-producing as well but said prices could be restored to OPEC's \$18 per barrel reference. Overproduction was tamed at the organisation's July 25 meeting in Geneva.

"I am not prepared to discuss any other issue unless we reach agreement on this," he added. "When one country over-produces, every other member suffers."

Iranian oil industry sources said Tehran was privately threatening to open the taps and produce 3.5 or 3.6 million barrels per day unless the OPEC meeting introduced discipline among the 13 member states. Its current OPEC quota is 3.14 bpd.

Azadeh said Iran would not accept any change in its share of the total OPEC quota. He estimated OPEC output in June at 23.5 million bpd, compared with a target of 22.1 million bpd.

World markets are glutted with crude oil. Prices have fallen a third this year to between \$3-4 below the OPEC target — prompting a rare burst of plain speaking among other members put public pressure on the UAE and Kuwait, which have large reserves, to curb production.

Iran and Iraq have both joined the campaign. OPEC President Sadek Bousena of Algeria has just visited the Gulf producers, preaching the need for production restraint.

Azadeh told Reuters the

UAE was overproducing on its quota by about a million bpd and Iran lost \$1 billion for every dollar the spot crude price fell.

He said the Iranian government was not pressing him to increase oil revenues because of the earthquake which killed 40,000 Iranians last week.

Iran was already strapped for cash after its 1980-88 war with Iraq. The earthquake flattened large areas on northwestern Iran and will set reconstruction work back still further.

Although Iran and Iraq have signed no peace after their eight-year war the minister said their heads of state would have no problems participating in a proposed OPEC summit. But other members might be unwilling to attend, he said, declining to name them.

Oil industry sources said Iran was aiming its most pointed criticism at the UAE because it believed the appointment of a new oil minister in Kuwait, Rashid Salem Al Ameri, meant that country would be more concerned to support the OPEC price.

Azadeh said OPEC faced two choices. It either reduced the overall production ceiling so much that over-production did not affect prices, or it strictly enforced production quotas. "I favour the second choice."

Nazer delivers King's message

Saudi Arabia Oil Minister Hisham Nazer delivered a message from King Fahd to the leader of the United Arab Emirates on means of stopping a slide in world oil prices, the Associated Press adds from Abu Dhabi.

The official Emirates News Agency WAM said the message was delivered to the UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and the meeting was attended by UAE Oil Minister Mansour Saeed Oteiba.

The message dealt with the conditions of the oil market and means of stabilising it within the framework of consultations and coordination between King Fahd and Sheikh Zayed for the sake of

the common interest," the agency added.

OPEC President Sadek Bousena was in Saudi Arabia at the end of a tour of OPEC member states of the Gulf that included talks in Kuwait and UAE. No details emerged on their discussions but Nazer is visiting both countries.

An oil industry source in Abu Dhabi told the Associated Press that Nazer seeks "conciliation on oil production quotas," and that it was in preparation for OPEC's next ministerial meeting scheduled for July 25.

Oteiba told reporters in Abu Dhabi at a joint press conference with Bousena earlier this week that the country had abided by a pledge in May to cut output by 200,000 barrel per day from 2.1 million barrel per day. The OPEC quota that the UAE rejects is 1.095 million barrels per day.

"The UAE will not accept pressures and threats from anybody," Oteiba said, but also reiterated his country's support to the OPEC resolutions despite his disappointment over the cartel's failure to act on the demand for a higher production quota.

"The UAE has been repeatedly accused of being the cause of the sufferings in the oil market. A charge we reject," Oteiba said.

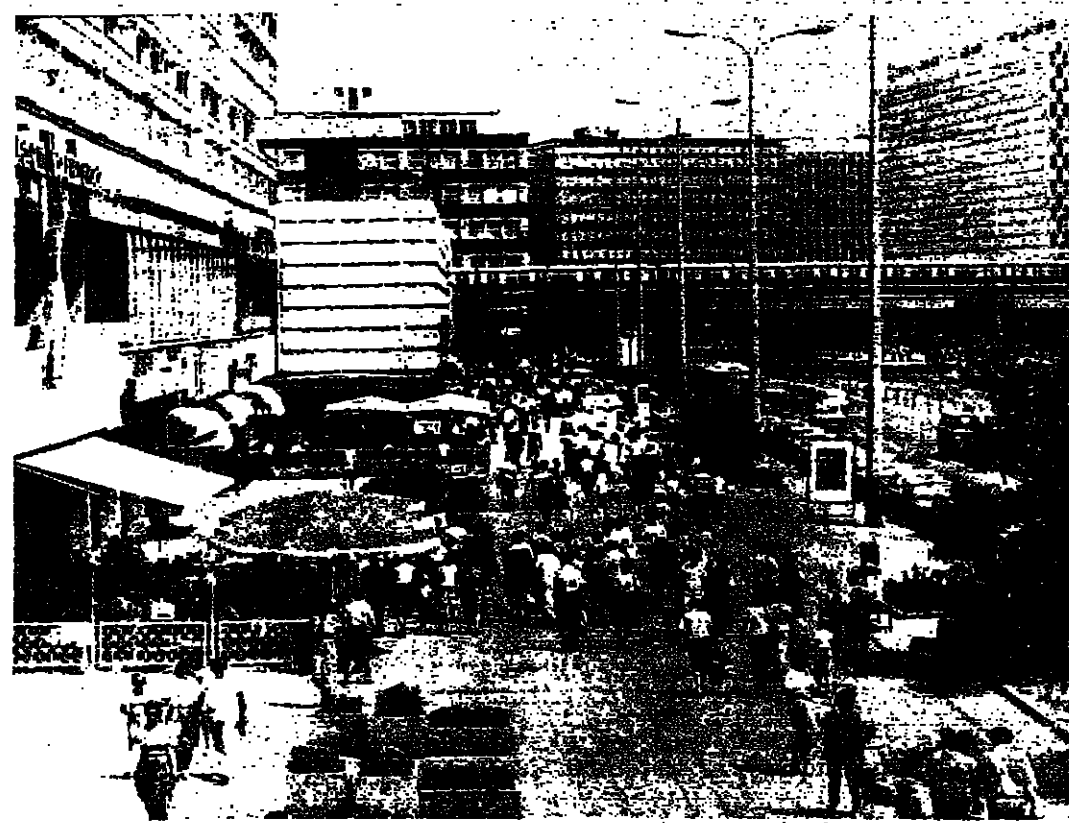
Egypt's oil prices unchanged

Non-OPEC Egypt will keep its crude oil prices unchanged as of July 1, an official of the state-owned Egyptian General Petroleum Corp. (EGPC) said.

The decision leaves the benchmark Suez blend at \$12 a barrel. The Prime Zeit and Ras Bahar grades will continue to sell at \$12.30 a barrel.

Prices for the cheaper grades of Belayim, Ras Badran and Ras Gharib will remain unchanged at \$11.15, \$10.00 and \$9.70 a barrel respectively.

Egypt, which reviews its export prices twice a month in accordance with market trends, last changed prices for the second half of June when they were cut by one dirr a barrel for all grades.



A street in East Berlin on a quite day. Economists' unification of the two Germanys through hardships are warning that Germans living on both sides of brought in by the merger of the disparate economic border markers will have to pay the price for miles of the two (file photo).

Warnings of hardships as German economies unite

BONN (R) — Bonn's opposition leader and a union chief sought to dampen German euphoria over pending economic union Saturday, warning of hardship and despair for workers in the East on the way to full unification of the fatherland.

And East German Finance Minister Walter Romberg said rising unemployment after the merger of the economies, with the need for increased social security payments, might raise the costs of unification for both sides.

West German Social Democratic Party (SPD) Chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel said the switch "from a command-economy to a socially and ecologically responsible market economy is not possible without risks."

Franz Steinkeubler, chairman of the IG Metall union, the largest in the Western world, predicted strikes and rising unemployment as the former Communist state wrestled with the changeover to a competitive Western-style economy.

"If steps to ensure jobs and real income are not achieved, I cannot rule out that workers in East Germany will be driven to despair," he said.

He called on politicians and economists to make every effort to avoid "horror scenes of up to four million unemployed."

On the other side of the former Berlin Wall, Romberg told the newspaper Berliner Zeitung that the East German government deficit, under a deal signed with West Germany in May, was set at 35 billion marks (\$21 billion) in the second half of this year.

"Situations could occur forcing us to break this financial framework," Romberg said. "The framework could prove too small for social security payments."

East Germany already has 130,000 jobless and industry experts expect unemployment to hit up to three million of the country's nine million workforce as uncompetitive industries go to the wall.

"The medium and long term costs are impossible to calculate," Romberg said.

The cold-war comments came as the mass-circulation West German newspaper Bild trumpeted "what a weekend" in a front-page story.

As the two Germanys took "the most important step towards German unification," it said the

West German soccer team was on the verge of reaching the World Cup semifinals and even the weather forecast was sunny and warm.

Bild quoted Chancellor Helmut Kohl as saying: "We feel unity now in our everyday life... Germans are once again inseparably united. Soon, we will live in a free, united Germany."

Vogel painted a bleaker picture. "We have clearly warned (of problems) before the abrupt, unsupported transfer from one system to another," he told Bild on Saturday.

Vogel, whose SPD had called for changes in the economic union treaty, listed several areas of concern including more protection for East German firms suddenly placed into the competitive mainstream of a free market, and social issues including women's rights.

In a statement from his office Saturday, Vogel said: "We fear that mistaken decisions by the chancellor and his government have heightened these risks and will lead to unavoidable social breakdown, especially unavoidable rises in unemployment."

U.S. interest rates may be headed lower

WASHINGTON (R) — The Federal Reserve, which is responsible for the U.S. money supply, may soon be ready to give the Bush administration and the stock market what they want — a cut in interest rates.

Although few economists expect the Fed's policy-making committee to take action when it meets Tuesday, an increasing number think an interest rate reduction is likely in the next month or two.

"Around the end of July, we'll probably see a cut," said David Jones, chief economist at Aubrey G. Lanston Company.

That would suit the Bush administration, which has begun to beat the drum harder for lower interest rates as the economy has shown signs of slowing.

And it would help ailing stock market concerns that a weak economy will hurt corporate earnings.

Economists say the Federal Open Market Committee may act to nudge down the federal funds rate, which acts as a benchmark for other interest rates, by a quarter of a percentage point, to eight per cent.

The argument for a rate cut rests on a recent spate of statistics showing that the U.S. economy is faltering.

Retail sales have fallen for three straight months, the first time that has happened during the seven-and-a-half year expansion, while housing starts have dropped to 1981 recession levels.

"We're projecting growth over the next three quarters of less

than one per cent," John Williams, managing director at Bankers Trust Company, said.

That rate is close to a recession, and it increases the pressure on the Federal Reserve to take action now to ensure that the expansion continues.

Economists said that much will depend on whether economic statistics in the coming weeks confirm that the economy is faltering and inflation is moderating.

"If we get a bad unemployment report next week, the Fed might ease," said Kevin Flanagan of Dean Witter Reynolds. The Labour Department issues June unemployment figures next Friday.

Administration officials have made it no secret that they would like an interest rate cut now, to help the economy, as well as later, after they strike a deal with Congress to reduce the gaping U.S. budget deficit.

"I would hope that we could persuade the Fed that... this would be a good time to ease up," Housing Secretary Jack Kemp said last week.

The administration's concern about the economy has risen as U.S. consumers, the main driving force behind much of the expansion, have grown more wary about spending.

Slack employment growth and sagging home prices have combined to make consumers more cautious, economists say.

High interest rates keep inflation in check by raising the cost of borrowing and therefore slowing down the economy.

Seoul to allow imports from North

SEOUL (AP) — President Roh Tae-Woo declared Friday that South Korea will allow unrestricted entry of airplanes, ships and goods from its Communist rival, North Korea, to help make Korean reunification easier.

In a nationally televised speech, Roh also said he would continue to carry out democratic reforms to lift South Korea into the ranks of advanced nations in this century.

"The administration will unrestrictedly allow the inflow from and through the North of aircraft, ships and other means of transport as well as goods," Roh said.

Roh's speech came during a "meet-the-people" session at Blue House, the presidential office, marking the third anniversary of his July 29, 1987, declaration that initiated wide-ranging democratic reforms in South Korea.

During the two-hour session, Roh and a dozen panelists discussed a variety of political, economic and social problems facing South Korea. About 150 onlookers also attended.

Three years ago, as the government presidential candidate, Roh surprised the nation by announcing the reform programmes. The announcement, following weeks of massive nationwide anti-government protests, won widespread approval.

Roh took office in early 1988 after winning the nation's first direct presidential election in 16 years.

In Friday's speech, Roh promised more democratic reforms and urged his people to pay more attention to unification with North Korea.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

1. Lip
5. Whales
10. Chunk
14. Astrigint
15. Kind of alarm
16. Peruvian city
17. Desert
18. Salt type
20. Translucent
21. Aware
22. Chelodony
23. Head: Fr.
25. Precise to excess
26. Not easy
28. Fast
31. Warm over
34. Apla's land
36. Greenland's colonizer
37. Fr. river
41. With 43A, footwear
43. See 41A
45. Diplomacy
47. Fall
48. Musical symbols
49. Arab
50. Simple sugar
52. Dance step
53. Alt. prep.
57. Criminal
59. A Moorehead
61. Silt for gold
63. Defense org.
65. Antislavery
66. Read quickly
70. A speaker
71. Transparent
72. Major
73. Vendition
74. Salience
75. On one's — (talent)

DOWN

1. Starch source
2. Tilted
3. Like some particles
4. Express pleasure
5. A-Sing
6. Unusual
7. With 27D
8. Ship
9. King of Judah
10. Clari money
11. Belt
12. Yellow stain
13. Exposed
14. Contest
15. Tilt
16. Upped the ante
17. Irritate
18. Timber abb.
19. Festivity
20. Narcotic
21. Dummy
22. Chances
23. By the very nature of it
24. Collections
25. Cattle
26. School type
27. La Douce
28. Size 70
29. Multitude
30. Profoundly
31. Agreements
32. Cr. color
33. Glowpoke
34. Small map
35. Caper
36. Vertical term
37. London gallery
38. Fin change
39. Agreement
40. Cr. letter

Yesterday's Puzzle Solver

ACROSS

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34. Small map
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36. Vertical term
37. London gallery
38. Fin change
39. Agreement
40. Cr. letter

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS

"We can keep cable TV and golf, but we'll have to give up..."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles.

TYMIA

WANTY

HURTOF

REESHA

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumble: BULRY HENNA ADOOT ENDURE

Answer: Very ordinary names with monogrammed LUNCH

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JULY 1, 1990

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll-Flighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day for tuning in on things of the spirit and to develop a better set of principles under which to operate in the days ahead when you can count on the assistance of a close associate who heretofore has been neutral.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find early nothing is as you had expected it to be in the outside world and it is necessary for you to rearrange your plans accordingly.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A new plan is almost the way you want it to be but you find some factors that require a change in order to be productive of the best of results.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You need to keep yourself under perfect self control today and especially where anything of an outside of a vocational nature is concerned.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is certainly the day to refrain from any arguments or discussions from anyone who offers beneath your roof and above attention there.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) It is a day when accidents can be life with on the highway or at the beach.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Neither judgement nor old conditions can now be changed. You need to be careful.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) You have a great deal of decisions today and want to act quickly to get in motion some plan that will enable you to rise above this hot summer.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) Think about what indicates problems you have and don't try to get out from under them now and this applies to your work load as well as to other directions.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Acquaintances who are usually cooperative in aiding you to gain your fondest aims are too busy with their own preoccupations to be helpful.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) You would be wise to rely solely upon yourself and your own opportunities and abilities, rather than depending on others.

AQUARIUS: (January 22 to February 21) It is your day to investigate things from "underneath" that appeal to you for drawing others into such project could cause considerable confusion.

PISCES: (February 22 to March 21) You need to be careful of your health and to be sure you are not overdoing it.

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W. German offence expected to prevail

MILAN, Italy (AP) — West Germany's high-speed offence meets Czechoslovakia's solid defence in Sunday's World Cup quarterfinal in Milan — and the attackers are expected to prevail.

Coscher Franz Beckenbauer and Josef Venglos did not announce full lineups in advance but their tactics are very clear. "I'll field a stronger midfield than against Holland, to better support our attacks. I plan an offensive-minded team, similar to the one which did extremely well in first-round matches," said Beckenbauer.

Venglos conceded that West Germany is the favourite and likely to take the initiative and press throughout the match.

"German forwards are very strong but we are not afraid. We will try to stop their offence with a crowded midfield and strike back with fast counterattacks. We are bidding for an upset win," Venglos said.

In three first-round matches against Yugoslavia, the United Arab Emirates and Colombia, West Germany scored 10 goals. It added two in last Sunday's second-round victory over the Netherlands for a 12-4 goal differential.

Czechoslovakia enters Sunday's match with a record of 10 goals scored and four allowed. Nine of its goals were tallied against weak opponents, the United States and Costa Rica.

Tomas Skuhravy, the leading World Cup striker with five goals, will lead Czechoslovakia's forward line. Captain Ivan Hasek and Lubomir Moravik mastermind midfield play.

Skuhravy will be marked by Juergen Kohler, who did extremely well against Dutch star Marco Van Basten last Sunday. Kohler said he will try to leave no chances to Skuhravy, who is especially good in headers but can also strike with both feet.

"He's a very dangerous player, although he scored most goals against weak defences," Kohler said.

The Czechoslovak forward tallied three goals against Costa Rica in the second round.

West Germany's striker Karlheinz Riedle, who is as good with headers as Skuhravy, will substitute for striker Rudi Voeller, who is sitting out a one-match suspension for a red card. Riedle should form a dangerous pair with Juergen Klinsmann, who has tallied three goals in four championship matches.

'Argentina unlikely to retain World Cup'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Osvaldo "Ossie" Ardiles, who helped Argentina to a soccer World Cup victory in 1986, does not think his country will make it to the final this year.

"From what we have seen so far I think it is very unlikely that Argentina will win this time," Ardiles was quoted as saying in an interview with the English-language Cyprus Weekly newspaper.

Ardiles, who was vacationing in Cyprus, told the newspaper he thought the July 8 final in Rome would be between Italy and West Germany.

"I don't think you can compare the two," he answered when asked to compare this year's Argentine team to the one he played with to win the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

"Argentina are a one man band this time, really. Everything depends on (Diego) Maradona. It all goes through him. I thought they were very lucky to win against Brazil."

Beckenbauer expects England in semifinals

ERBA, Italy (R) — Franz Beckenbauer reckons England will reach the World Cup semifinals but says Italy against West Germany would make a dream final.

Victory over Czechoslovakia in Milan Sunday would carry West Germany to a semifinal against England or Cameroon, though Beckenbauer is making no premature assumption of his team's progress.

"I expect England in the semifinals because Cameroon have four players who can't play because of (second) yellow cards," he said at the squad's base near Lake Como Friday.

"A country like Cameroon can't counter-balance that, so I believe England will reach the semifinals."

Beckenbauer said prospects for an Italy-West Germany final — a repeat of 1982 when Italy won in Spain — were quite good.

"If that came about we would have a dream final, but things have not got that far yet," he told

a news conference.

Beckenbauer said his team would not underestimate quarter-final opponents Czechoslovakia.

"We have the motivation. We want to get to the semifinals. We played very well against the Netherlands, who are one of the strongest teams in the world," he said, looking back to last Sunday's 2-1 win over the European champions in the second round.

"The Czechs won't be underestimated. We must play like we did against Yugoslavia — put them under pressure, keep them occupied and not give them space."

Beckenbauer said the first game — a 4-1 win over Yugoslavia — had been very important, enabling his side to steam on in the tournament.

He kept reporters guessing about his line-up, saying that despite its defensive look the team which beat the Dutch had played very attacking football

Poll shows Schillaci most loved player

ROME (R) — Striker Salvatore Schillaci, whose fairy-tale World Cup turned him into a national hero, has topped defender Franco Baresi as Italy's most popular player.

Schillaci overtook sweeper Baresi in a running World Cup popularity poll this week, the survey organisers said.

He took 12.1 per cent of the 22 million votes cast, just ahead of Baresi with 11.9.

Regular striker Gianluca Vialli, who has lost his place in the team because of injury and bad form, was third with 10.5 per cent.

Schillaci, a second division player a year ago, has himself described his World Cup as magical.

When the competition started, he was considered only as a useful second half substitute.

But after scoring three of Italy's six goals so far he has catapulted to popularity and carved himself a fixed place in the team.

Argentines claw their way into semifinals

FLORENCE (Agencies) — Fortune smiled on champions Argentina Saturday when it clawed its way into the World Cup semifinals despite a missed spot kick by Diego Maradona in a penalty shoot-out against Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia, forced to play for 90 minutes with only 10 men in sweltering heat after Refik Sabanadzovic was sent off, hung on grimly for a goalless draw at the end of extra time.

But the luck which has been with Argentina all through their series of disappointing performances in the tournament did not desert them as they moved into a semifinal in Naples with either Italy or Ireland Tuesday.

Maradona's penalty miss cancelled out a spot kick sent crashing against the bar by Yugoslav playmaker Dragan Stokovic.

But Argentine goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea made himself the hero by saving Yugoslavia's last two penalties from Dragoljub Brnovic and Faruk Hadzibegovic to take the South Americans through 3-2.

Argentina's Pedro Troglio had previously hit the post with his spot kick but the title-holders' triumph was clinched when Gustavo Dezotti slotted home what was effectively the winner.

Yugoslavia played most of the match with 10 men after Sabanadzovic was sent off in the 32nd minute for a foul on Maradona. He earlier had been given a yellow card for refusing to move back at a free kick.

Argentina had the ball in the Yugoslav net in the final minute of extra time, but Swiss referee Kurt Rothlisberger disallowed the goal, apparently ruling that Jorge Burruchaga handled the ball.

Television replays of the incident were inconclusive. The Argentines surrounded the referee in protest and Burruchaga pushed the referee in the chest, but escaped punishment.

Both benches cleared and there was a brief pushing match before order was restored.

Despite the expulsion of Sabanadzovic, Yugoslavia had the better of play in regulation time.

Sweeper Davor Zovic, who already has scored two goals in the tournament, three times came close to breaking the deadlock.

First he crashed a volley over the crossbar in the 12th minute, then he flicked a header inches wide in the 27th minute.

He also forced a good save from Goycochea with the Argentine defence in disarray in the final minute of the half.

Robert Prosinecki also came close with an angled shot that flew across the face of goal.

Argentina's best chance came in the fourth minute when Claudio Caniggia caused panic in the Yugoslav defence but Burruchaga shot wildly.

Maradona's threat was muted throughout and his teammates struggled on attack.

Cameroun seeks another upset in match of contrasts

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — England meets Cameroon in the World Cup quarterfinals Sunday in a game of contrasting soccer strategy and players' temperaments.

Such a pairing with a World Cup semifinal spot at stake would have been scarcely conceivable a month ago.

England was lacking confidence despite its good prospects as a darkhorse, while Cameroon was expected to be among the first teams to be ousted from the 24-nation field.

But the Africans became a force in the tournament opener June 8, beating defending champion Argentina 1-0 in probably the biggest upset in World Cup history.

Proving it was no fluke, Cameroon went to defeat Romania and Colombia to reach the round of eight and become one of the most

popular teams in the field. Its only blemish was a 4-0 loss to the Soviets, who failed to reach the second round.

England's cautious approach won scant praise for the country that invented the game. Colourless draws with Ireland and the Netherlands were followed by meager 1-0 victories over Egypt and Belgium. The two goals from four matches underlines England's less than potent attack.

Cameroon is a team that does not fit a stereotypical image. Many of its players have spent years abroad in professional leagues in France and elsewhere. The team's Russian coach, Valery Nepomnyashchy, has imposed some order on a group of individualists with a tendency to play rough.

Like all the other teams that have encountered Cameroon in this competition, England is fac-

ing the Africans for the first time.

At this stage of the competition, with so much at stake, England is likely to feel considerable pressure against a team that has nothing to lose.

"Cameroon is going to produce a different kind of player than ours have been used to playing, so they have got to be flexible again," manager Bobby Robson noted Friday.

Cameroon has already gone farther than expected and a loss to England would be no disgrace. Still, a victory over England would be especially sweet.

This is one game where Cameroon's 38-year-old striker Roger Milla won't be the oldest player on the pitch. That honour goes to England goalie Peter Shilton, 40.

England hopes for free-kicks

SALERNO, Italy (R) — England, bristling with confidence and determination, hope to capitalise on their free-kick expertise in Sunday's World Cup quarterfinal clash with Cameroon in Naples.

Having scored from dead ball routines against Egypt and Belgium in their last two matches, England will try and make the most of any such chance when

they meet the hard-tackling and sometimes indisciplined Africans at the San Paolo stadium.

"I hope they knock us down all night on the edge of the penalty area and inside it," said coach Bobby Robson Friday.

"We are feeling good," Robson added. "There is a wave of optimism going through the camp about our situation here. Four years ago when we reached the quarter-finals, there was some apprehension about playing Argentina."

"This time we are full of optim-

ism. It is a match we feel we can cope with," he noted.

England are not usually associated with spectacular free-kicks in the Brazilian style. But their efficiency with such openings in Italy was behind their Group F victory and their second round triumph over Belgium.

Midfielder Paul Gascoigne's accuracy with dead ball kicking has been a major factor — it was from his kick that substitute David Platt volleyed the last-gasp winner against Belgium.

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♥ 5 3
♦ Q 2
♣ J 10 7 6
WEST
♠ K J 2
♥ K 7
♦ A 5
♣ A Q 9 8 5 4
EAST
♠ 7 6 4
♥ Q J 9 8 2
♦ 9 8 3
♣ K 2
SOUTH
♠ Q 5
♥ A 10 4 3
♦ K J 10 7 6 4
♣ 3
The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
3 ♠ Pass Pass 3 ♠
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ace of ♠
Rubber bridge is at its most interesting when one side, or both, possesses a partscore. You must be prepared to take risks to prevent the opponents from completing their rubber, or game.
Had there been no partscores, North's overall would have been considered, at best, dubious. Under the given circumstances, however, it was incumbent on North to enter the fray and it resulted in North-South buying the contract at a feasible level.

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Lithuania awaits end of Kremlin sanctions after freeze vote

VILNIUS, Soviet Union (R) — The Kremlin is expected to lift economic sanctions, including a fuel embargo, against Lithuania this weekend, after the republic's decision to freeze its independence declaration.

"We've kept our side of the bargain with Moscow," government spokesman Česlovas Varnas said. "All Moscow needs to do now is turn the tap and the oil will start flowing again."

"We expect this to happen now within the next 36 hours," he said.

The Lithuanian parliament surrendered Friday to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's condition of talks — the freezing of its March 11 independence declaration.

The parliament's concession handed Gorbachev a big victory before Monday's opening of a crucial congress of the Soviet Communist Party, where conservative critics are expected to blast his reformist policies.

Gorbachev, who is also party leader, had consistently called on Vilnius to suspend its declaration to give him room for manoeuvre with his critics.

But it had become increasingly clear this week that both sides were eager for an end to the deadlock, with Lithuanian leaders shutting to Moscow and Gorbachev suddenly using the once-banned word "negotiations" to describe future talks.

"I suppose you could see our decision as a concession, but sometimes concessions are necessary on both sides. Perhaps it also helped Gorbachev along as well," Yursenas said.

He added that he thought negotiations could begin soon after the party congress, expected to last 10 days.

The Lithuanian Supreme Council, or parliament, declared a 100-day moratorium from the start of any talks but said this could be broken off at any time.

On the streets of the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, there was only light traffic Saturday morning. Three months of a Kremlin fuel embargo have taken most cars off the road.

But a thriving black market has emerged, with tacit official approval. Thousands of gallons (litres) of petrol are smuggled in from the neighbouring Republic of Byelorussia to keep some taxis, private cars and 70 per cent of public transport working.

Supplies in the shops, better kept and more Western in appearance than the austere stores of Moscow, are still better than in the Soviet capital.

Poorer Byelorussians are more than willing to trade their petrol for the relative abundance here of clothes, food and consumer goods.

There was no sign of emotion over the parliamentary declaration in the narrow cobbled streets of the old town. For weeks it had been only a matter of time before Vilnius would be forced to back down.

But while the embargo has left few marks on the city, industry and agriculture have suffered badly, with hundreds of factories closed and farms losing machinery vital to the harvest. Residents have been without hot water for four weeks.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, who dropped his opposition to a moratorium and backed a compromise Friday, said Gorbachev had pledged to end his embargo if the parliament voted to freeze the declaration.

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — Problems have mounted for the U.S. space programme when NASA was forced to ground its space shuttle fleet temporarily due to a fuel leak in the shuttle Atlantis.

The leak resembled one that grounded the space shuttle Columbia and the \$148-million astro observatory on May 29. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which also has a third shuttle, Discovery, promptly announced there would be no shuttle flights until further notice.

William B. Lenoir, NASA's spaceflight chief, said a planned July 15 flight of Atlantis on a secret military mission had been postponed indefinitely.

"There is no question that we will not fly until we understand the problem and have it fixed," Lenoir, a former astronaut, told a news conference here.

The development plunged the space programme into further disarray. A Senate committee Friday opened hearings into how the \$2.5 billion Hubble space telescope came to be launched in April containing a flawed mirror that will delay for years, and perhaps indefinitely, 40 per cent of its experiments.

The Hubble, designed to probe the secrets of the universe, has not operated properly since shuttle astronauts left it in orbit. In addition to the mirror problem, it wobbles and turns itself off as it passes in and out of sunlight.

It was unclear Friday whether the grounding of the shuttle fleet would delay a shuttle mission scheduled for 1993 to repair the Hubble.

Technicians partially fuelled Atlantis Friday as a test before beginning the final two weeks of preparations for next month's classified mission, NASA officials said. They detected the leak during the test.

WEST BERLIN (R) — Seen from the air, Berlin's wound is slowly healing. All along the 165-kilometre Berlin Wall — from the rural Western fringes to the inner-city border — East and West German workers are beavering to reconnect by Sunday roads severed for decades.

"Every day we see things which just won't be there tomorrow," said British army air corps Captain Peter Crosby, wheeling low over the crumbling wall in his tiny Gazelle helicopter.

Hovering above the frontier at Bernauer Strasse, the heart of old Berlin and scene of many dramas when the wall went up, Crosby pointed out the toppled guard towers and piles of rubble.

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The Western allies — Britain, France and the United States — stuck to West Berlin in their helicopters and the Russians to East Berlin.

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Meanwhile West German President Richard von Weizsäcker said Friday Berlin should be the capital of a united Germany, despite its past role as the heart of the Nazi Third Reich.

"This is the place for politically responsible leadership of Germany," said von Weizsäcker, widely tipped to be the future German's head of state, in a speech in the city's still nominally separate Eastern sector.

"In Berlin we have experienced like nowhere else what German division meant and what unification will demand of us," he said after being awarded honorary citizenship of East Berlin.

Berlin was Germany's capital for 74 years until the Nazi defeat in World War II, when it was split into Eastern and Western halves until the barriers fell along with East Germany's Stalinist regime in 1989.

Von Weizsäcker, a Christian Democrat, applauded for his sensitive handling of the Nazi past, conceded some Europeans still associated Berlin with Prussian militarism and Third Reich aggression.

Thieves smashed a museum window Thursday and made off with three Vincent Van Gogh paintings after the museum's alarm system, described as false, did not go off. The Noordbrabant Museum lost the prize paintings of its collection, to thieves who jumped several fences and broke the ground-floor window of the gallery where the paintings were hanging, officials said. Stolen were The Sittin Farmer's Wife, the Digging Farmer's Wife and Wheels of the Water Mill in Gennep. The museum's deputy director, Peter Veenland, said their total value was \$2.7 million to \$5.4 million. He said the paintings were insured but refused to say for how much. Vincent Van Gogh painted them while living in what is now the town of Nuenen, 29 kilometres from the museum. It was the third time in 25 months that paintings by the Dutch impressionist had been stolen from museums in the Netherlands. The Noordbrabant Museum, which Veenland called a "state-of-the-art updated alarm system." It has two elements designed to detect intruders — seismic sensors measure movement and infrared sensors to measure body heat.

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MCCARTNEY GIVES CONCERT IN LIVERPOOL

LIVERPOOL (AP) — Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney returned Thursday night to Liverpool where the famous rock foursome was born and staged a concert that rolled back 30 years for 50,000 delighted fans. "We're going back through the mists of time to a place they call the 60s," he told the cheering capacity audience in the stadium specially built for the concert at the northwest port city's King's Dock Auditorium. The 2½-hour concert, which opened in evening sunshine, was part of 48-year-old McCartney's world tour that started last September. It featured Beatles hits from the 1960s plus music from McCartney's group Wings and his solo career. The Beatles — McCartney, John Lennon, George Harrison and Ringo Starr — split up in 1970 amid bitter wrangles about money.

VAN GOGH PAINTINGS STOLEN FROM MUSEUM

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"I would like to repeat how grateful we are to the Royal Society and to Cambridge University for their invitation to us and the hospitality extended to us," said Fang, 54.

"We now look forward to pursue our academic work. We do not wish to answer any questions about political matters or to give any interviews. We look forward to a period of peace and quiet."

Fang and his wife Li Shuxian, also a physicist, arrived in Britain on an American military transport plane Monday night.

The couple had sought refuge inside the U.S. embassy in Peking after the army massacre that followed pro-democracy demonstrations last June.

Chinese authorities vilified them as traitors for much of the last year, but suddenly announced the couple had been allowed out of the embassy to go abroad for medical treatment.

The Ministry of Public Security said the couple had shown "signs of repentance" and had agreed not to engage in activities against China. The British Foreign Office said Fang had complete freedom of speech in Britain.

Fang's son Fang Ke travelled from the United States to be reunited with his parents this week.

"This has been a very happy family reunion, since we have not seen him for four years. We now look forward to our second son's departure from Peking to study in the United States," the dissident said.

American academic Perry Link, a friend of the family, told Reuters Monday Fang would probably be reticent until his second son, Fang De, was allowed to leave.

Fang, wearing a striped grey suit, said he had been relaxing in the English countryside with his wife "to recover from our ordeal." He appealed to the press not to pursue him after he takes up a post at Cambridge's Institute of Astronomy Monday.

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Zambian crowds cheer 'coup that never was'

LUSAKA (R) — A reported coup attempt in Zambia Saturday brought thousands of people into the streets of Lusaka to celebrate, but the government of veteran President Kenneth Kaunda said within a few hours that it was in control.

Kaunda's deputy Grey Zulu said on state radio soon after 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) that a broadcast coup announcement in the early hours was the work of a single soldier.

"I would like to assure you that that was the work of one indisposed soldier. He has no friends or supporters in what he announced," Zulu said.

Zulu gave no indication of what had happened to the soldier, named as Lieutenant Mwamba Luchembe, whose broadcast on Radio Zambia said the army had seized power.

Everything in Lusaka, the copperbelt and the entire country was peaceful, Zulu said, adding that Kaunda's programme was unchanged and he would open a trade fair in the copperbelt town of Ndola during the afternoon.

"Not a single life has been lost," Zulu said.

The man who announced the coup attempt described himself as Lieutenant-Colonel (rather than Lieutenant) Mwamba Luchembe of the signals corps.

His brief broadcast was repeated several times over a period of nearly four hours before a radio announcer described it as a fabrication.

Meanwhile, truckloads of people and others on foot had raced into the city from surrounding townships, waving their fists and chanting, "Viva Tembo, Kaunda down."

Tembo is Lieutenant-General Christine Tembo, a former army commander and ambassador to West Germany, who is currently on trial for treason.

Tembo, 45, was detained in October 1988 on accusations of plotting to overthrow Kaunda. He and three other army officers have pleaded not guilty.

Heavily armed soldiers guarding Lusaka city centre since three days of food rioting earlier this week in which at least 27 people died appeared confused, but some joined in the celebrations, waving their rifles and echoing the crowds' chants of "Viva."

Political observers say Kaunda assigned Tembo to the diplomatic service in early 1988 because he had become too popular as army commander.

"Tembo is our leader. We don't want Kaunda any more," one of the demonstrators said Saturday.

Asked if he had heard that the announced coup had failed, a man dancing excitedly in the main Cairo Road said: "That cannot be true. I would be very disappointed."

Cambodian rebels fear Khmer Rouge takeover

BANGKOK (R) — Cambodian guerrillas said Saturday they were pushing urgently for another round of peace talks because they feared the Khmer Rouge — nominally their allies — might head for outright military victory alone.

Speaking to Reuters by telephone, senior officials of two non-Communist factions backed by the United States and China said the Khmer Rouge were expanding operations which might upset any balance in the peace process.

"We are very afraid the Khmer Rouge will harden their position once they are not so far from Phnom Penh. We don't want them to reach Phnom Penh before a political settlement," said Ieng Mouly, secretary general of the republican Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF).

The ultra-radical Khmer Rouge, who 15 years ago rode to power by subduing a much better-equipped army than they now face, have in recent weeks attacked several towns near the capital, causing tens of thousands of civilians to flee their homes.

They have also ruptured communications between Phnom Penh and outlying cities.

"They are definitely operating in eastern provinces where they weren't before," Ieng Mouly said.

Diplomats said the Khmer Rouge were keen to stay within political moves to end the war but would not be slow to flex their military muscles if U.S. and Thai efforts to isolate them continued.

"When they are alone they are arrogant," said Truong Mealy of the Sihanouk faction. "They must not be left out."

Senior officials from both the KPNLF and Prince Norodom Sihanouk's faction said the Khmer Rouge looked far stronger than a few months ago while the Phnom Penh government was looking increasingly unstable.

In the last month Phnom Penh has arrested senior officials, including at least one minister, and said it foiled a coup d'etat. Diplomats said the situation was confused but had undermined the prestige of Hun Sen's government at home and abroad.

KPNLF President Son Sam this week called on Thailand's retired General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh to bring all four factions together for talks ahead of a gathering of permanent members of the United Nations Security Council on July 15.

The Nation newspaper Saturday said Chavalit, who resigned this month as defence minister, would meet Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and former head of state Sihanouk within the next few days. The paper quoted him as saying he was also in contact with Hun Sen.

The last attempt to reach agreement between the tripartite coalition and the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh broke down in Tokyo earlier this month after the Khmer Rouge refused to abide by a modified ceasefire agreement.

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U.S. shuttle fleet grounded

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — Problems have mounted for the U.S. space programme when NASA was forced to ground its space shuttle fleet temporarily due to a fuel leak in the shuttle Atlantis.

The leak resembled one that grounded the space shuttle Columbia and the \$148-million astro observatory on May 29. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which also has a third shuttle, Discovery, promptly announced there would be no shuttle flights until further notice.

William B. Lenoir, NASA's spaceflight chief, said a planned July 15 flight of Atlantis on a secret military mission had been postponed indefinitely.

"There is no question that we will not fly until we understand the problem and have it fixed," Lenoir, a former astronaut, told a news conference here.

The development plunged the space programme into further disarray. A Senate committee Friday opened hearings into how the \$2.5 billion Hubble space telescope came to be launched in April containing a flawed mirror that will delay for years, and perhaps indefinitely, 40 per cent of its experiments.

The Hubble, designed to probe the secrets of the universe, has not operated properly since shuttle astronauts left it in orbit. In addition to the mirror problem, it wobbles and turns itself off as it passes in and out of sunlight.

It was unclear Friday whether the grounding of the shuttle fleet would delay a shuttle mission scheduled for 1993 to repair the Hubble.

Technicians partially fuelled Atlantis Friday as a test before beginning the final two weeks of preparations for next month's classified mission, NASA officials said. They detected the leak during the test.

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COLUMN

Lacroix fails to overturn 'disloyalty' ruling

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